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Enjoy Li

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Shown with this article is a collection of photos from the April 29 city council meeting where council members voted in favor of the McKinley Village project.

McKinley Village: A Retrospective

By MICHAEL SAELTZER

A week after the City Council voted on Tuesday, April 29 to approve McKinley Village many of the yellow and green "Save East Sac- Stop McVillage" signs have remained standing.

In an e-mail blast sent just two days after the vote, Councilman Steve Cohn opened by stating to his constituents: "Two days is not enough time to gain perspective on the City Council's 6-3 decision to approve the McKinley Village project, over my strong objections."

Many, perhaps a decisive majority, in Cohn's district felt let down by the vote, for some even by him. It will be interesting to see just how long those "Stop McVillage" signs" remain posted. Prior to the vote, it was estimated that nearly 1,000 stood posted throughout the community.

It will be equally interesting to see how the local elections play out next month with Cohn vacating his seat, running for assembly against Councilman Kevin McCarthy, who also voted against the project, along with Vice-Mayor Angelique Ashby.

Although Cohn's e-mail blast emphasized a "united neighborhood position" regarding the necessity of vehicular access at Alhambra the proposed development, including the site itself, was and still remains, a complex issue for the public and our City as a whole rather than simply one involving traffic mitigation. For those living on streets that will be the ones most impacted by the additional traffic the development would generate, sure this issue is traffic. But, for all the rest such a characterization turned out to be as incomplete as it was revealing of poor strategy and miscalculations of public opinion.

At first the story of McKinley Village from the point of view of the local press, was indeed one as Cohn stated, a traffic issue. However, developing the small slice of land between a heavily congested I-80 and a busy Southern Pacific switching station was complex enough to eventually draw into question the very coverage the local press was providing, alongside such issues as the validity of the Environmental Impact Report, the very definition of the term "Smart Growth", and the role of high powered money influencing our elected officials' votes.

Ken Stephans, who resides in East Sacramento still has his "Stop McVillage" sign posted prominently on his lawn a week after the vote. He says that he keeps his sign up because, "the project still doesn't make sense."

Another resident, who like Stephans still has his sign up, Harry Saperas, stated his first concern, among many, after the council vote: "Just how much money was given to each council member between Angelo Tsakopoulos and Phil Angelites?" Among Saperas' other concerns were, "the safety of

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McKinley Village:

Continued from page 2

placing residents so close to trains shipping toxins and combustibles."

Clearly, there would be no sense in trying to hide the fact that many of the residents of East Sacramento, Midtown, and others were convinced from the beginning that, as Stephans put it, "the deck was stacked, and the issue of the environment fell on deaf ears."

It might be difficult to respond to the issue of political ethics voiced within the community if one happened to be a council member, and possibly that is one reason why Cohn quickly reacted to try to keep the issue framed as that of traffic mitigation, but the issue of big money and political ethics is not going away anytime soon. One of District 3's candidates running to replace Cohn, Ellen Cochrane, weeks ahead of Tuesday's vote vowed that if elected she would introduce a "Clean Vote Ordinance" for adoption by the Sacramento City Council.

"The idea is simple," Cochrane said. "It requires council members to refrain from voting on any matter that directly benefits a donor who has given more than \$1,000 to that council person. It would apply for the whole four-year term. No exceptions. This is a small, but clear and firm step for good city politics. The ordinance I envision will raise the ethics bar for office-holders."

Meanwhile resident Scott Gregory anticipates his "No McVillage" sign will remain up through ground breaking and infrastructure construction. Gregory was not interested in additional vehicular access for the project.

He would have preferred the site be used as an urban farm, an idea similar to another candidate for Cohn's spot on the council Adam Sartain. Sartain stated that "after careful study he determined the site would not be suitable for residents, but would be suitable for an agricultural center and a central restaurant."

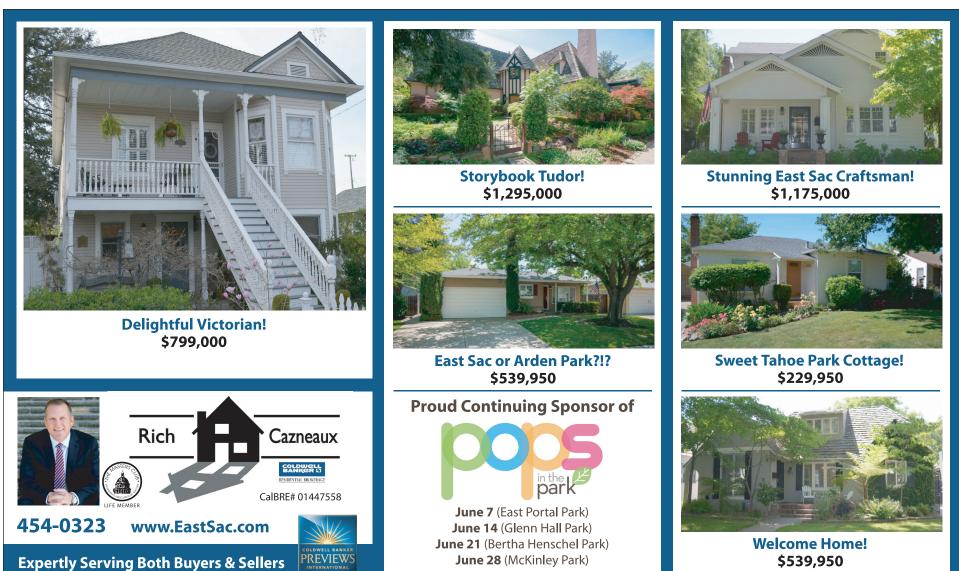
As the evening of the vote approached, clear divisions within the community became even more apparent. The press, which had beforehand been exclusively framing the issue around traffic mitigation, began to shift some of its focus to include health. On April 29 KFBK's Tim Lantz reported, "Neighbors say the property is intended for industrial use and not suited for a housing development," a point many said was backed up by research submitted to the City regarding the shortcomings of the EIR in the Health Risk Assessment of the project.

The Sacramento Bee's editorial board, the day before the vote, came out stating the project was

See City Hall, page 18







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Private Trees: A Veil of Leaves on 12th Ave.

By BILL LAWS

On 12th Avenue in Tahoe Park, the bough of a large, multi-story tree curls across the street like a sleeping python partially hidden in a veil of leaves. The long limb of the Privet tree goes from sidewalk to sidewalk. "I think it looks beautiful," says one neighbor who lives near the end of the street. Casting an ample amount of shade on the quiet roadway, the over-arching branch gives the block a cozy, snug feeling.

But others who park their cars under the extended branch ask government ex-

A tumble during tee-ball practice led to Francesca's

With chemotherapy, a titanium prosthesis and

saved her life and limb.

for others.

first cancer diagnosis at age 6. X-rays revealed a bone

cancer that afflicts only three in every million children.

Francesca's own determination, UC Davis specialists

When leukemia struck at age 8, she underwent a rare stem cell transplant at UC Davis and more chemotherapy.

Only four years later, Francesca and her UC Davis team

fought another type of cancer seen primarily in adults.

Today the high school senior is also a dancer, artist,

writer - and an accomplished public speaker about

cancer awareness. One of her many life goals? To

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become a pharmacist, so she can help ease suffering

The lives we touch inspire us

perts the question: Is this a dangerous tree? One neighbor recalls a recent story about a fallen limb that had plummeted into traffic, killing a motorist.

"We can't do anything about private trees," said Kevin Wasson, Director of Urban Forest for the City of Sacramento's Division of Public Works. "If it's on someone's lawn, that's their responsibility."

Others worry that the drought and perhaps new rules limiting yard watering might weaken large, mature trees. Tree structures, without adequate supplies of water, can lose strength, snap and fall to the ground.

Despite upcoming rules regarding lawn and tree watering, The Sacramento Tree Foundation's website (www. sactree.com) explains that the amount of watering for trees depends on the individual situation. Type of tree, the kind of soil and the age of the tree are all factors in determining a watering regimen.

Each tree, according to the Tree Foundation, should be periodically inspected. Proper watering should result in damp soil six to eight inches deep around the "drip line" or perimeter of the tree's crown.

On the City of Sacramento website under a section called Streetscape Maintenance, the problem of tree safety is addressed. Sacramento's Department of Public Works, it claims, "provides management and oversight to contractors charged with maintaining safe...greenscapes."

Nevertheless, the website stresses the City's primary responsibility for trees relates to public areas such as parks, cemeteries and highway medians where there is vegetation.

Marvin Green, a father and veteran helicopter pilot, might think differently, however. He inspects the large Privet tree near his home. The tree has grown a single limb that extends in a graceful curve across 12th Avenue. Green has had a career understanding aeronautics and the forces of wind. He wonders about the stability of the long bough. "I think it's a beautiful tree," he says, "but someone could make it a lot safer by trimming off the leaves. A series of downward gusts could weaken the branch quite a bit."

Wasson, however, disagrees. After an inspection by two certified arborists with special training in tree risk assessment, the city official says that "at this point in time" and according to elements of risk assessment, the tree has been determined to be safe. When asked about the problem of growth of a load of additional leaves through the spring and summer, Wasson still explains that it his feeling that

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See Private Trees, page 8

Squeeze Inn restaurant was founded in East Sacramento

By LANCE ARMSTRONG Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series about the history of the Squeeze Inn restaurant.

Many Sacramentans today are familiar with the popular hamburger restaurant chain, Squeeze Inn. But most of those people are unaware that the first of that eatery's locations was located right here in East Sacramento.

The history of this business began 32 years ago, when Sacramento natives Ken Noblett of 1449 Arvilla Drive and Shane Dickenson of 1512 55th St. opened the restaurant's original location at 4087 C St. at Elvas Avenue.

However, on a side note, research for this article revealed that an unassociated restaurant by the same name was established in the capital city long before the 1982 opening of the Squeeze Inn on C Street.

In about 1952, a restaurant by the name of Squeeze Inn – also recognized as Squeeze Inn Lunch in some references – began operating at 1111 North B St.

That restaurant was owned by Julius "Brownie" Brown, who had previously spent about a year as the proprietor of a restaurant at 111 North 12th St.

The Squeeze Inn on North B Street was established next to a trailer park owned by Fannie L. Feeney, and George M. Law's business, George's Liquor Store (later renamed George's Liquors).

By 1955, Brown was still the proprietor of the Squeeze Inn, but he had additionally become the owner of the trailer park, which was renamed Brownie's Four Acres Trailer Court. Brown ceased operating the trailer park in about 1957.



Ken and Ruth Noblett are shown in this 1990 photograph.

The Squeeze Inn on North B Street became recognized as Brownie's Squeeze Inn about a year earlier.

That business closed in 1967, and George's Liquors remained open for about seven more years.

During an interview with this publication last week, Ruth Noblett, Ken's widow, was asked if she was aware that a Squeeze Inn restaurant operated in Sacramento prior to 1982. In response, Ruth said that she was surprised by that news, and she added, "I don't know anything about that. I know there's a Squeeze Inn in Truckee, but it's no relations. (Ken, who graduated from Hiram Johnson High School in 1966) never mentioned (the existence of a pre-1982 Squeeze Inn in Sacramento), so my husband never knew about that

either. Of course, he would have been

See Squeeze Inn, page 12



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Army Football



By MARTY RELLES marty@valcomnews.com

I played football in 1962 at Sacramento High. That year I played weak side end for the junior varsity team. I had a good season catching several passes from quarterback Bob Ferguson. I even scored a touchdown in our last game. That gave me the confidence to ask the coach for approval to play football for high school credit in the fall of 1963. He rebuffed me saying, "Let's see if you make the var-sity team." That disappointed me so much; I didn't even try out for the team that year. I thought that marked the end of my competitive football career. It didn't.

In the fall of 1969, I shipped out for a tour of duty with the U.S. Army at the 510th Ordinance Company in Gunzburg, Germany. After arriving at the 510th in the fall, I soon learned that they participated in an army competitive flag football program. Units from all over Germany competed in this program. The 510th team had just finished its football for that year, but next year loomed on the horizon.

When tryouts began during the summer, I participated along with my friends Jack and Walt. Jack had played pitcher on the baseball team at the University of South Carolina.

Walt played linebacker at Laney Junior College in the Bay Area. Another fellow, Dave Goss, had played on the freshman football team at Penn State. We had the nucleus for a good team. Jack would be our quarterback. Walt would play linebacker and Dave Goss played on the defensive line. I played tight end. Our team bonded together as we practiced hard and looked forward to a successful season.

We won our first game easily and quickly gained confidence. Jack whizzed passes to me and the other receivers, and our running back zigzagged through the line for big running plays. By the end of our 8-game season, we were undefeated. That got us into the playoffs.

We played the first playoff game against a team that won the league title in Augsburg a big army town. We handled them easily, winning 28-7. Next, we went to Munich to play for the Bavarian Section title. There the going got tough, but we won a close game, winning 14-7. I caught the winning touchdown pass.

Now, we were heading off to Stuttgart to play for the Southern German championship. The whole battalion was buzzing with excitement.

We bused up to Stuttgart on Friday evening, staying over at a barracks near the field. I remember arriving at the field that day feeling really nervous. This was it. If, we won this game, we would play in the all-German finals in Frankfurt. It wasn't to be. We played hard.



The game was close. I nearly scored a touchdown, getting inside the 10 yard line on one play, but we couldn't get into the end zone on the ensuing plays. We lost 13-7.

Our spirits were low on the bus ride back home, but our buddies were waiting for us when we arrived. They dragged us over the enlisted man's club and drank to our success. At formation on Monday morning our commanding officer praised us for representing the battalion honorably. It was a great feeling.

That turned out to be my only Army league football experience. Prior to the next fall, I discharged from the army. However, I would play football again in the State of California league and the Sacramento City League where John Ducray led our team to the city championship. I will never forget my Army league football experience though, yet another hard-hitting Janey Way memory.



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1st quarter: \$382,500 2nd Quarter: \$416,450 9.18% increase 3rd Quarter: \$412,500 1% decrease 4th Quarter: \$450,000 9.16% increase Total increase of values approximately 8.5% in 2013

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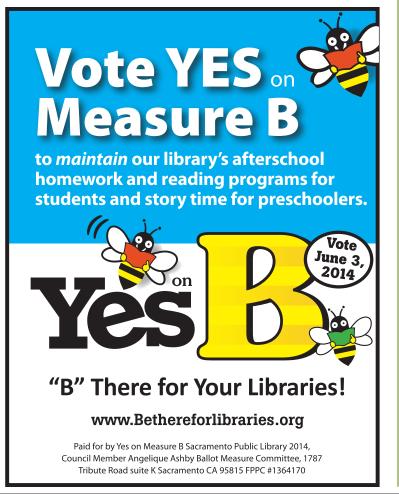
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Private Trees:

Continued from page 4

the City does not need to take action on the large limb.

Despite the unusual extension of the branch over the street, Wasson also declines to alert the property owner to "keep an eye" on the longlimbed tree.

The Sacramento Tree Foundation's website addresses the structural issues that pertain to mature trees. Mature trees, explains the site, are trees with trunks more than sixteen inches in diameter. "Warning signs" that might indicate the possibility of "tree failure" include dead branches, leaning boughs, cavities in the wood and "hangers" or broken branches.

In the 12th Avenue Privet tree, some of the factors related to "tree failure" are present. Clearly, there are no broken branches or apparent cracks. The long branch narrows as it stretches across the road. Yet, the bough supporting the long limb going across the street is slightly angled. Also, at the tip of the protruding limb are a number of small, dead branches. Finally, and perhaps most troubling, there is a deep cavity in the "crotch" of the tree where the two major limbs meet the central trunk. These cavities sometimes represent diseased areas that could present a point where future wood cracks can occur.

In my mind, I consider the difficulty of identifying dangerous trees. No doubt it is something that requires the involvement of experts and those with proper training.

Obviously, though, property owners, whom Wasson explains are responsible for trees, are not tree experts. Moreover, the paved roadway such as 12th Avenue, which runs only two or three feet from the Privet, prevents some amount of natural moisture from reaching the root systems. As made clear by the Tree Foundation's website, lack of moisture caused by the unique location of a tree or by the influence of drought can kill an otherwise healthy tree.

The resident of the home with the overgrown Privet tree is actually a renter. Not everyone has motivation to think about tree safety. At present, there is no City program to present property owners with alerts or notifications that grade or measure the hazard level of their trees.

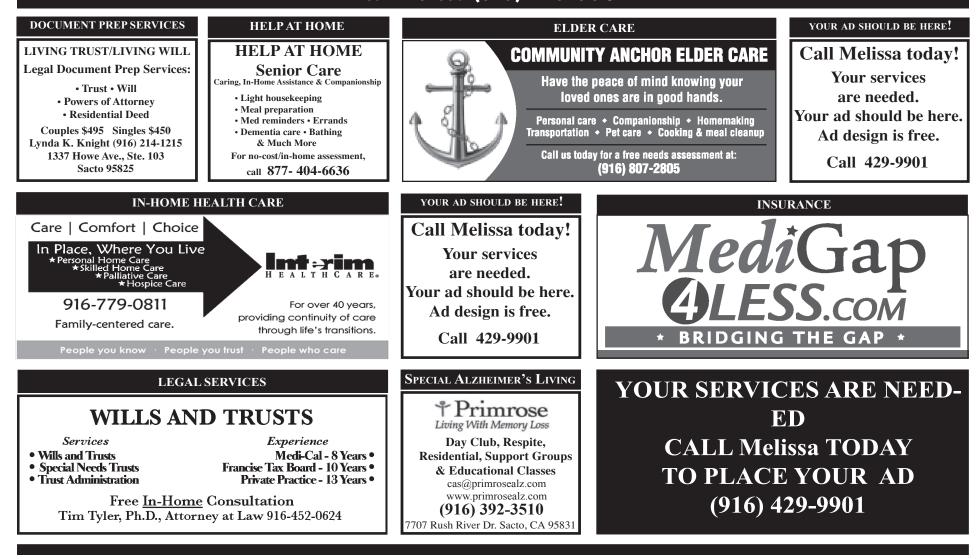


A large branch, heavy with leaves, stretches across a wary Tahoe Park neighborhood.

According to Wasson, even with the current drought and anticipated watering restrictions, the City is not planning to implement alerts for unwieldy trees such as the 12th Avenue Privet. Hopefully, over the next few months the beautiful Privet doesn't grow an excess of leaves. If it does,

no doubt a concerned neighbor will call the arborist back for another inspect. Hopefully, as well, there is not a strong windstorm. Luckily for Sacramento, the kind of wind storms that topple Douglas Firs along the Oregon coast are practically nonexistent. Let's hope it stays that way.

Senior Services Resources Call Melissa (916) 429-9901





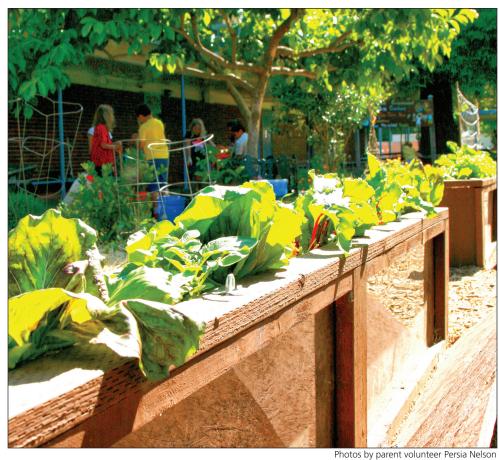
EAST SACRAMENTO BUSINESS



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SCHOOL NEWS



The gardens at Caleb Greenwood are bursting with goodies for the students who get to harvest the fruits of their labor.

What's new at the Caleb Greenwood school garden?

Carrots, kale, chard, turnips, beets, onion, and cilantro are currently on hand to Caleb Greenwood Elementary School students this spring, as they have also recently planted tomatoes, tomatillos, and eggplants; the kindergarteners planted potatoes that will be ready early June. Wheat is also growing now. In the winter, the school enjoyed snap peas, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, and celery and they also harvested from their persimmon tree. A few parents baked persimmon cookies.

"All of our kindergarteners through third graders go out to the garden to pull out debris, dig and plant," said Principal Amy Whitten.

Working with teachers to provide lessons that correspond to the units the classes are studying, garden guru Anna Symkowick-Rose gets the help from parent volunteers who provide assistance for every class.

Currently, students are learning about planting a veggie garden that uses water more efficiently. So the students learn how to utilize mulch to help retain moisture. They are also taught how to check the soil to see if it needs to be watered. The school is also in the planning stages of building a new native garden with a schoolyard habitat and outdoor classroom.

"Recently the students voted on what plants they wanted in this garden. This increased the learning gardens significantly," Whitten said.

"We harvest our produce and have snacks at recess on occasion. We also have an after school garden workshop called Roots and Shoots for kindergarteners through fourth grade. This class does garden related, crafts, experiments, games, observation, journaling, planting and maintaining," Whitten said. The students attend a formal class twice a year in the garden. The kindergarten-

The students attend a formal class twice a year in the garden. The kindergarteners also planted potato and bulbs at different times of the year. Almost every week the school has garden Wednesdays where they plant and maintain the beds during recess, Whitten said.

Built in the 1990s by a teacher and his class, there are eight beds that are by the back parking lot. These beds average 24 square feet. They also have 14 beds in the middle of two classroom wings. These are around 60 square feet.

Student William Tracy recently built two root viewing boxes for his Eagle Scout project. They are designed so that the side can open in order to see the roots in action.





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First Congregation Church holds Blessing of the Animals

Bv MONICA STARK editor@valcomnews.com

East Sacramento's affinity for their furry friends prompted the congregation at First Christian Church on Folsom Boulevard to ask their pastor if he'd offer blessings to animals from outside the church.

In an interview with the East Sacramento News, Pastor Ted Firch discussed the urging by churchgoers to have animal blessings, noting the church has offered blessings before, though they've been geared mainly to its congregation. Open to the entire community, a hamster, cat, or dog can be blessed in the name of God and continue its happiness with the human family. "We are inviting all to come," Pastor Ted said.

"(East Sacramento) is a big dog walking community. In the morning, you will see lots and lots of dogs going around with their humans," he said. "A lot of our folks and a lot

of people in East Sacramento are very attached to their pets and they have a deep connection. That was a request from members of our congregation who do not have biological children of their own, and who talk about their fur babies.

They don't generally bring their fur babies to ministry, but they feel like their dogs and their cats are a part of their spiritual family and they want them to be connected to their human spiritual family," Pastor Ted said.

As to the importance of the blessings, Firch explained they are performed to affirm that human beings are not the only ones on the planet that matter. "All species are blessed and beloved by God. All over the world, people of faith seek to recognize and affirm the great bond and affection between human beings and our animal companions. Blessing the animals is a way to express all of that," he said.

Parishner and event volunteer Dave Hosseini enjoyed bringing his pitbull Jesse to previous animal blessings held at First Christian Church. "The blessings have a real community feel, as song unites the

attendees. It's beautiful how the event comes together. Each gets an individual blessing and it was somehow meaningful."

Upon recalling the details of the day when Jesse was blessed, the congregation invited a chorus, which happened to sing a song the got the dog barking to the tune." (The song) wasn't anything too religious, but it started off with the words - 'Everything that has breath, praise the Lord.' – and, at the end of the verse was the sound of a drum, and our dog Jesse would bark at that part. Everybody has remembered that ever since," Dave said with a chuckle.

Sadly Jesse died a month ago at about 14 years of age, which has not only brought grief to Dave and his partner, Gary, but has affected the temperament of the family cat, 4-yearold Huckleberry, as the feline hid around the house showing signs of depression.

Both Jesse and Huckleberry were rescue animals. Found four years ago in a pipe in the greenbelt near their home in the South Land Park area, Dave said they could hear it crying. We went over the fence and found it; we brought it back and Jesse was like a mother to Huckleberry. He would wash Huckleberry from bottom to top."

As precious as Huckleberry was when they found him, so was Jesse. "She came from the streets also. Gary was working at a mental health center in Oak Park and found the cat. She was maimed. Gary's boss took her for a little while and then brought her back (to work). Gary told me it's a pitbull. And I said, 'Are you crazy?' So he brought her home one night and that was that.

be welcome. "We'll be ready," he said. "We encourage people to bring their cats in carriers, since frequently cats and dogs don't mix well, especially

Photo by Monica Stark

ceive an individual blessing and a commemorative certificate. Please bring dogs on leashes, cats and small animals in carriers, and please leave snakes at home. Pet treats, coffee and When: Saturday, May 31, from 10 to noon Where: First Christian





Valley Community Newspapers, Inc.

Squeeze Inn: Continued from page 5

(about) 6 years old (when that restaurant opened). Absolutely, there's no connection at all."

But when it comes to the topic of the Squeeze Inn, which was originally located in East Sacramento and later moved to 7918 Fruitridge Road, Ruth is obviously quite knowledge about that topic.

In telling the story of the creation of the Squeeze Inn on C Street, Ruth said, "(Ken) was the assistant director (and herpetologist) of the Sacramento Zoo. He worked for the city for a total of about 15 years. He worked at the zoo for probably the last 10 (years) of that (time). He retired from the zoo and he and his brother (Gary) opened Nobby's Wooden Nickel café and it was on Arden Way. That was probably in May 1980. And (Ken) couldn't support his family, so his brother bought him out. (Ken) took that money and he and a friend of his named Shane Dickenson (opened the Squeeze in on C Street in 1982). (Ken) was the cooking guy and (Shane) was the business end of it. Before the summer was over, Ken bought Shane out, and then it was just Ken (as the business's proprietor)." In discussing the method in which

the name, Squeeze Inn, was select-ed for her husband's business, Ruth said, "It was just a name that somebody said during that session when they were trying to figure out what to

call it. There were just a lot of people sitting around Kenny's (place on Arvilla Drive, where he had resided since about 1975) and they were talking. There were probably 10 or 15 people in the room. There were a lot of names being thrown out. Ken wanted to call it Presley's on Elvas, and everybody groaned and said, 'No, that's a terrible name. That's a terrible name.' And it was just one of those things where somebody hollered out, 'Well, how about the Squeeze Inn?' And ev-erybody said, 'Oh, yeah, that's cool."

Ruth recalled the original Squeeze Inn location, as follows: "The first Squeeze Inn, the one at 4087 C St., it was one of those metal buildings, where you ordered at one window and pick up at the other end. So, there were no stools there. (Ken) built a patio onto it and we had picnic tables out there."

Oddly, in a prophetic fashion, the restaurant had been named the Squeeze Inn, and a logo with three people sitting closely together on barstools was created prior to the restaurant's relocation to the small, compact building with a line of barstools on Fruitridge Road.

In confirming that the logo was made for the East Sacramento location, Ruth said, "That is true. (The artist's) name was Charley. I can't think of his last name. Anyway, Ken just described what he wanted for a logo and Charley drew it. And Ken was like, 'Yeah, that's it."

Certainly, the Squeeze Inn's most notable menu item has always been



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The Squeezeburger is a visual art piece with mounds of cheddar cheese that is fried to form a crispy, tortilla-shaped ring that extends about 3 inches outside the burger.

the Squeezeburger or unofficially, the squeeze with cheese."

The Squeezeburger is a visual art piece with mounds of cheddar cheese that is fried to form a crispy, tortilla-shaped ring that extends about 3 inches outside the burger. And inside the burger is a very tender, 1/3pound, 100 percent beef patty that is smothered with fresh fixings on a sesame seed bun.

And after being asked to speak about the origin of the Squeezeburger's cheese, Ruth said, "They call it the cheese skirt. Actually, this is what I think is the most

interesting part of the story about the Squeeze Inn. When Ken and his older brother, Gary, were kids, there were four children – two boys and two girls – and their mother used to cook cheeseburgers for them. She would use a cast iron skillet and she would cook the hamburger on one side, then she would turn it and she would put a handful of shredded cheese, then she would put the top of the bun, then she would throw water in the skillet and put the lid on it. And so, [Ken and his siblings] grew up eating 'squeeze with cheese,' with a cheese skirt."

ARTISAN MIND WILL SHARE HOW THEY CONNECT ART, **CREATIVITY & CULTURE INSTITUTIONS TO PEOPLE** LIVING WITH DEMENTIA & THEIR CARE PARTNERS

May 20, 2014 at 2:00pm

Presented by: Tiffany Paige **Director of Artisan Mind & affiliate ARTZ Sacramento**



A non-profit organization, Artisan Mind and affiliate ARTZ Sacramento, both dedicated to offering creative experiences that serve as gateways to accessing lost memories reclaiming a sense of dignified self and healing the symptoms often associated with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia.

Refreshments & Appetizers will be provided Please RSVP by May 15, 2014 or contact us for more information at (916) 392-3510

† Primrose Living With Memory Loss 7707 Rush Drive, Sacramento CA 95831 LIC 347001338; 347001342



Upcoming McKinley Library events

From a special program "Sunflower Power" to the weekly baby lapsit, The McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd., has a few exciting events on the calendar. The hours of the library are as follows:

Sunday and Monday, closed; Tuesday: noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Sunflower Power: Why do plants produce seeds? California Food Literacy will show visitors how to remove sunflower seeds from the flower, create seed packets to take home, and make a spread called Sun Butter! Visitors can eat the homemade sun butter on graham crackers and read a book about sunflowers. Funded by the Friends of the McKinley Library, the program takes places on Saturday, May 17 at 2:30 p.m.

Sabrina's Craft Corner: Come join the library as you work on your current craft project, or start a new one. Funded by the Friends of the McKinley Library, this program happens on Tuesday, May 27 at 5 p.m.

SFSQUARED Book Club meeting: Fantasy – Science Fiction – Mainstream Paranormal Fiction – this



month's selection is "Snow Crash," by Neil Stephenson. Come to the library on Saturday, May 31 at 1 p.m. to discuss this book.

Read to a Dog: Read to a Dog is a fun and proven method for boosting a child's reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog and adult volunteer. Children may bring their own books to read to a furry friend, or they may borrow a book from the library's collection. This program will be held on Tuesday, June 3 at 3 p.m.

Baby Lapsit storytime: Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs and rhymes, and meet other babies in the neighborhood. This recurring program starts at 10:30 a.m., with dates as follows: June 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25.

EAST LAWN

MEMORIAL DAY

CELEBRATIONS

Monday, May 26, 2014

Coffee • Food • Music • Special Tributes • Memorial Day Service

Special Commemorative Free Gift For All Veteran's.

Services are as follows:

4300 Folsom Blvd: 11:00 a.m.

East Lawn Elk Grove Memorial Park,

9189 E. Stockton Blvd: 10:00 a.m.

East Lawn Sierra Hills Memorial Park, 5757 Greenback Lane: 10:00 a.m.

ACE

East Lawn Memorial Park,

f www.EastLawn.com

Toddler preschool storytime: Join the library for songs, fingerplays and stories especially for ages 18 months to 5 years, followed by playtime! Make new friends and play with toys. This recurring program starts at 10:30 a.m., with dates as follows: Wednesday June 5, 12, 19, 26.

Journey to Bubbleland: Let's kick off summer and summer reading with a pop! Join the library for a spectacular show of bubble artistry, comedy, stories and music. You'll see dancing bubbles, people inside of bubbles, and bubbles in the shape of dragons, whales and spaceships. It's a show you won't forget! Partially funded by the Friends of the McKinley Library, the show starts on Thursday, June 5 at 4 p.m.

Sabrina's Craft Corner: Learn a new craft technique every month, using simple household items and affordable materials. Paper Mache will be the craft on Saturday, June 7. Funded by the Friends of the McKinley Library, the program starts at 12:30 p.m.

Light Sabers with Art Beast: After reading a rousing tale of space adventures, friends will use pool noodles and a range of decorative tapes and jewels to create a one-of-a-kind light saber for battling unfriendly space creatures. Partially funded by the Friends of the McKinley Library, the program will be held on June 12 at 2 p.m.

Juggling, Magic and Inspired Silliness: Join the library for juggling, magic, and balancing tricks with Owen Baker-Flynn. Owen will amaze us with fun tricks, comedy, and other goofy stuff. Get inspired to have a silly, fun summer! Partially funded by the Friends of the McKinley Library, the program starts at 2 p.m. on June 18.



Faces and Places: Yogis go upside down in the McKinley Rose Garden

Photos by MONICA STARK

These folks from the Sacramento group, Handstand Nation, love being upside down. They are ready for you to join them as they flip their perspectives, have fun, and continue to learn empowering arm balances. With a simple mission – to help people lift their feet off the ground – this group has a drop-in "minisession" on Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. at Bertha Henschel Park. You should RSVP to save a spot or email to join another session. For more information, call 698-7601 or visit http://TheHandstandNation.com









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Valley Community Newspapers, Inc

CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

ONGOING

Sacramento Zoo needs wheelchairs

The Sacramento Zoo is looking for a few "gently used" wheelchairs. As the

weather gets warmer, more families want to visit the zoo. The Sacramento Zoo generally has wheelchairs to loan at no charge. However, at this time, we have none. If you would like to donate a "near new" wheelchair that you no longer need, please call 808-5888. Your wheelchair can be a tax deductible donation, and we'll give you four zoo tickets as well for your generosity.

AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers for tax assistance/ preparation and leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at NoCalTaxAide@Outlook.com or visit website at; www.aarp.org/taxaide'

Mahogany Urban Poetry Series

- Queen Sheba - poetry readings Each Wednesday from 8-11 p.m. at Queen Sheba in Sacramento, local talent makes it way to the restaurant for weekly open-mic events. \$3-\$5. 1704 Broadway.

Brain Gymnasium

Exercise your mind and have some fun at this on-going Brain Gymnasium class! In-

All Saints Presents...

& Organ Recital by John Karl Hirten

Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 4:00pm

\$10 for the concert • Overflow parking at City College Child care always available.

All Saints Episcopal Church

2076 Sutterville Road, Sacramento

Choral Evensong

viting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 9:20 a.m. Thursdays. \$6 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

Gentle Qi Gong

Learn powerful relaxation techniques reduce stress, reduce physical pain and emotional suffering, lower blood pressure, increase immune response and improve balance. Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 3 to 4 p.m., Wednesdays. \$7 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

See more Calendar, page 17



Advertise your craft fairs, holiday bazaars, school fundraises, church events, etc. in your Community Newspapers. Call (916) 429-9901 for rates.

Crockett-Deane Ballet & Deane

Dance Center present...

"The Story of Noah's Ark"

Saturday, May 17th at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 18th at 2 p.m.

The Center @ 2300 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento 95825

Adults \$15, Seniors/Students \$12. Kids \$10

s – at the door or (916) 453-0226 DeaneDanceCenter.com

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FOR THE CLASS OF 1964 – FROM LUTHER BURBANK

September 20, 2014

2 to 7 p.m.

\$35.00 includes catered food/beverages/music

Casual Attire

The event will be held at a private residence. For more information contact:

Janis (Chapman) LaBella (916) 704-9464 or janis.labella@att.net

Dennis Baer (916) 393-7839 or dbaer1@pacbell.com

Valley Community Newspapers, Inc.

Women with Good Spirits monthly meeting

Women With Good Spirits is a networking group that engages women in the Sacramento community with non-profit organizations that make contributions to our quality of life and care for our fellow residents. Each month, Women With Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. The meeting is held at Revolution Wines on the second Tuesday of each month and starts at 6:30 p.m. The presenter will start their presentation promptly at 7:15 p.m. and will last 15-20 minutes with an open question and answer forum after. RSVP is appreciated as well as a \$5+ donation per person that will go directly to the non-profit presenting that month. Revolution Wines is located at 2831 S St. Visit www.womenwithgoodspirits.com or find the group on Facebook.

Davis Art Center invites teen girls to write and publish

The Davis Art Center is offering a six-week creative writing class for girls ages 13-18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays starting February 11. The class will offer a positive, supportive space for girls who love reading and writing and are interested in discovering and developing their individual voices. Participants will use short stories by a diverse range of contemporary women writers as jumping off points for their own writing sessions. Each student will pick her best writing to include in a class-produced literary magazine. The class will be taught by Elise Winn Pollard, who earned her M.A. in creative writing from UC Davis. The fee is \$95 for Art Center members and \$105 for the general public. To enroll, stop by the Art Center at 1919 F. St., call (530) 756-4100 or register online at www.davisartcenter.org. Students must be registered at least two weeks before the first class session.

Attn. students: Submit now for water efficiency video contest

High school students can win cash prizes and the chance to view their video on the Raley Field Jumbotron by entering the 2014 Water Spots Video Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media in Education (MIE) program, challenges teens to create compelling and original 25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on a select water efficiency topic. The 2014 water efficiency theme is: Don't be a gutter flooder: Prevent overspray and runoff. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment

value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. Finalist videos will be displayed on the Raley Field Jumbotron screen and winners announced at a Sacramento River Cats game in April 2014. Winning students and their teachers will also get cash prizes. The grand prize winner's spot may become part of RWA's 2014 television ad campaign. Submissions due Feb. 28. Visit www.BeWaterSmart.info for more information and tips on using water more efficiently and to submit entries or get more information about contest rules, judging and prizes, visit www.sacbee.com/water-spots

California Youth Basketball League taking applications

CYBL is a non-profit year round league for ages 4 through 18 that prides itself on being well organized that aims to develop basketball skills, sportsmanship and self-esteem through coaches, gym official and organizers. Visit www.cybhoops.com or call 391-3900.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on Fridays at 7 a.m. Topical weekly speakers and first meal for visitors on us. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/ 50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com. Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

The Sacramento Capitolaires meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: www.capitolaires.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaires.org

Artisan holds Food Drive

Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and nonperishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riverside Blvd.

Soroptimist International of

Sacramento South meetings A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd.

for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

ΜΑΥ

Angelman Syndrome Walkathon

May 17: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Village Green, Freeport Boulevard and Sutterville Road in William Land Park.

Farms, Friends and Fairvtales

May 17: From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., join Fairytale Town for a fun-filled celebration of agriculture! Arrive early to watch Fairytale Town's twin Babydoll sheep get sheared, then watch as the wool is spun into thread using an old fashioned spinning wheel. Plus, participate in agriculture-themed hands-on activities, shop the mini farmer's market, and visit with local area farms and organizations. This program is free with paid park admission. Weekend admission is \$5.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

Movie Night at Marriott Park

May 17: Councilmember Darrell Fong presents movie night at Marriott Park with "Frozen", starting at 8 p.m. There will be free admission, barbecue, and popcorn. Marriott Park is located at 1235 Grand River Dr.

Tahoe Park Clean Up Day!

May 17: Join the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association for the first Tahoe Park Clean Up Day of 2014! This family friendly event is a great way to give back to our community and keep our terrific park looking its best. Tools, coffee, and snacks are provided, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Meet near the playground and bathroom at Tahoe Park beginning at 8:30 am.

Deane Dance Center presents "The Story of Noah's Ark"

May 17-18: Deane Dance Center's spring production is coming up on Saturday, May 17 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. The center is located at 2300 Sierra Blvd.. 95825. The ballet is entitled," The Story of Noah's Ark." Original music by Henrik Jul Hansen. Adults \$15. Seniors and Students \$12 and children \$10. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 453-0226. Visit deanedancecenter.com for more information.

Solution to Crossword:



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_00

City Hall: Continued from page 3

overall a good thing for Sacramento, again covering the issue of vehicular access well, but never mentioning the public's concern regarding political ethics, public health, particularly for the future residents of the site, the environment, or any others.

Certainly many in the community including upwards of 10 different neighborhood groups were not in agreement with this stance. The intensity and diversity of this opposition grew to levels which resulted in last minute attempts at coalition building and strategy reformulation.

East Sacramento Preservation Neighborhood Association (ESP) decided to joined with other groups, and Cohn, to approve the development if vehicular access at Alhambra was made a requirement.

However, during last minute meetings and struggles to finalize press releases ESP disengaged from the others because the many other concerns of the neighborhood were not being mentioned in the release including McKinley Village's overall fit, or lack thereof, with the community, the impact of the project on local schools which are already impacted, the public health and safety of future and current residents, and the environment. Thus, whatever coalition existed, at that point lost ESP, a key player.

The Monday before the council vote, Interim ESP President Dave Edwards, who took over for Cochrane when she decided to run for office, sat at a last minute ESP strategic planning meeting preparing the final draft of his two-minute public comment, and what he ended up speaking about, was focused on public health, the environment, and the issue of morals and how those seem to change for the worse once an ordinary citizen becomes an elected official.

Vocally opposed to the project, Cochrane said that the issue of the political ethics and the development were her primary reasons for joining the District 3 city council race. Three days before the vote, she blogged and e-mailed that "South Natomas would welcome a project like this. It would be a good fit. It does not belong on a never developed, bowl shaped, industrially zoned piece of land with an environmental stress score in the worst 20 percent of polluted areas in Sacramento. It's surrounded by train tracks and the freeway and poses multiple serious health risks to future residents."

Ironically in the same edition The Bee's editorial board came out endorsing McKinley Village another published article, which included a visual map of specific neighborhoods, provided the data Cochrane refers to in the environmental stress scoring.

On the other side of the fence, City council district 3 candidate Rosyln Van Buren months ago wholeheartedly embraced the project highlighting budget pressures and summing up her position as "bottom line, we need more housing, good jobs and our schools need the \$2 million in fees that this project will generate," a point also driven home by Angelides, the unions, and others on the night of the vote.

Important to note is that the issue of the appropriate use of the site was to be decided at the vote on Tuesday. Officially the vote on Tuesday was twofold in nature.

First, the council needed to decide on the best use of the site itself, a decision which came with many critical questions. Should it remain zoned industrial, or changed to residential? Was the site a wise place to place residents considering the pollutants they would be exposed to? Based upon what research would the council be making this determination?

Secondly, there was the issue of approving, or not, the development.

A close read of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) submitted for public comment in November revealed that the City was never required to study how the pollutants at the site would affect future residents.

Many residents submitted formal public responses to the DEIR shining a light on this critical omission, and voicing their opposition to the development based on this issue.

In the end, the Final EIR issued in February contained a revised Health Risk Assessment. "The purpose of this health risk assessment (HRA) is to determine the potential cancer risk to the future residents of the proposed project due to diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions resulting from diesel truck traffic on the Capital City Freeway and locomotives operating on the UPRR tracks."

For those concerned with air quality, the issue was that most of the research submitted to the City by the public, including local health experts, stressed that diesel particulate matter was not properly studied, that there were far more toxins at play at the site than just diesel, and the health outcomes included far more diseases than just cancer.

Formal comments submitted to the City Council included Dr. Harry Wang, President of the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (composed of 700 local physicians), multiple experts out of U.C., and other higher institutes of research and education, including the opinion of Dr. Tom Cahill a world renown atmospheric physicist called by the US government to the 911 site to test the air, and a researcher who often supports infill projects but came out strongly against the development in his letter to all council members dated judging it "unsuitable for residential use."

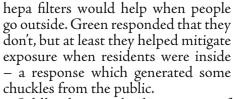
In the lobby of City Hall, just prior to the public meeting and the vote, the politically sensitive nature of the health of the future residents of the site was high enough that when city council council candidates Jeff Harris and Deane Dana were asked if they would go on record regarding the health of the future residents in light of the research provided to the council both candidate's issued a "no comment."

During the actual meeting Cohn had to remind his fellow council members not to assume the site was already slated for residential development, and that that decision was postponed many years ago during past discussions and council meetings.

Larry Green from the City's Air Quality District made himself available during the meeting out of recognition that the issue of air quality was one that many had concerns about and may have wanted to be further clarified.

Green himself made a point of emphasized that his role, and the role of the Air Quality District, was to only ensure that the policy and process of formulating the EIR was properly adhered to, as opposed to investigating the issue of the freeway toxins and the train traffic toxins both impacting the site at the same time.

Green and the Air District did recommend hepa filters be installed in the homes, which they will be, and that trees be planted to help mitigate the toxins. Cohn asked how the



Oddly, despite the limitations of Green's official testimony and the limitations of the research done in the EIR, many council members deferred to his guidance regarding the matter, rather than anything submitted to the council by the public, including all the peer reviewed research submitted by the physicians and health experts.

Angelides, of course, spoke at the meeting. His presentation stressed that his team of investors were all of the highest quality and locally based and would generate much needed jobs and millions in revenues. The development was one he had been working on for seven years and featured designs highly compatible with the existing neighborhood and its sense of community space. That he himself as well as his family were all East Sacramento residents at one time, and some continue to be from the neighborhood, he hopes that in 20 or 30 years folks will look at the development as a gem.

When ESP's Dave Edward spoke before the Council he stated, "While it is no secret that this location is fraught with unique pollution problems, I have been told by some airbreathing members of this council that they have little interest in health and air quality issues. The tortured rationalizations for this include: 'We approve projects in these types of locations all of the time' or 'Ínfill is too important' or even 'Buyer beware'... somewhere between your seats out there and the seats up there, some moral compasses may get a bit skewed. Please make a promise to yourself and to all Sacra-



Retrospective:

Continued from page 18

mentans that their good health will always be a top priority."

Of course, those from the neighborhood who knew the project would result in increases in traffic on their streets spoke in a unified voice that they simply wanted vehicular access at Alhambra, nothing more, nothing less. Many others mentioned the issue of methane gas, and its presence at the site.

Ćouncilman Steve Hansen wanted the public to understand that he advocates strongly for marginalized and disadvantaged populations, that many of those were forced for economic reasons into living near rails and freeways, that they do suffer we know for example higher rates of asthma, but to oppose the project based on these concerns would be unfair.

In the end, the vote taken by Council on April 29 was to approve the entitlements for McKinley Village, with a few modifications included by Hansen in his motion. These include:

1. Prioritize the building of an Alhambra underpass by making it a City project, using \$2.2 million contributed by the developer.

- 2. Build a 1/2 street closure at C and 28th streets to stop the development, next steps would include: improving
- 3. Build pedestrian improvements at 28th Street
- Work with UP to curtail train idling over the at grade 28th Street crossing.
 Eliminate the Sutter's
- 5. Eliminate the Sutter's Landing Connector from the General Plan.
- 6. Re-name 40th Street in the proposed project.
- 7. Uphold the PRC recommendation to dedicate the majority of PIF/Quimby funds to Sutter's Landing Regional Park.

Cohn noted that the motion lacked any guarantee of a future vehicular access, and also noted that it lacked an easement to assure that the developer will not encumber the area at Alhambra, leading to possible future condemnation of properties in the project.

After the vote, on April 30, CBS13 and TV reporter Kelly Ryan reported that residents are still vowing to stop McKinley Village and that they have 30 days to file a lawsuit. "Opponents are concerned the project will also bring increased traffic and pollution to the area. They also say the former dump site could be a health hazard for future residents."

During a phone conversation on May 7, Cohn relayed that he is not an expert on next steps, but his understanding is that barring a judge's order to stop the development, next steps would include: improving access to the site at 28th and A streets so that infrastructure construction could begin, building the tunnel at 40th Street (a project that Union Pacific may need to approve), then the developer would need to supply detailed design plans to obtain permits, and finally once the permits were obtained, begin constructing the houses. Whatever the construction

Whatever the construction sequence is, it is certain to be a long one, and one that many in the community consider part of a project they still stand opposed to.

Michael Saeltzer is the founder of East Sac Give Back and a member of East Sacramento Preservation.



The Valley Health & Medical publication will be in FOUR Valley Community Newspapers: Arden-Carmichael News, East Sacramento News, The Land Park News, and The Pocket News.

Publishes: June 5th & June 12th (20,000 Copies)

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FABULOUS FAB 40'S baths! Nicely redone with features including a chef's kitchen, butler's pantry, an amazing master suite, upstairs mini suite and and downstairs guest bedroom with bath and slider to backyard. Bonus room off garage. \$1,349,000

JAMIE RICH 612-4000



CLASSIC E SACRAMENTO Spacious remodel over 3300 square feet with 5 bedrooms 4¹/₂ Fabulous 3 bedroom East Sacramento home is ready for your summer entertaining in the lush low maintenance yard! The home features a spacious floor-plan, hardwood floors, plenty of built-ins, big bedrooms, and outside guest quarters/office with a full bath. Walking distance to coffee shops, restaurants, and parks. \$574,000

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MCKINLEY PARK VILLAS

Mediterranean style duplex (with upper and lower flats) just down from the Park. Both units have an extra office space, cute updated kitchens, beautiful hardwood floors, beamed living room ceilings, laundry rooms, and lots of charm! \$799,900

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495 **ROSLYN LEVY-WEINTRAUB 952-6602**



EXQUISITE BUNGALOW

Picture-perfect 2 bedroom in the heart of East Sacramento! Large welcoming foyer, curved bay windows, living room fireplace, arched doorways, a spacious dining room and hardwood floors. Features include stainless steel appliances, vintage tile bath, detached garage, quarter basement and shaded backyard patio. \$529,000 **ANN VULETICH CLARK 203-0146**



Spacious East Sacramento Tudor at its best! 4 bedroom home is on a very large lot and is minutes from coffee shops, downtown, and restaurants. Notice the charming living room, formal dining, a large kitchen, and a family room that opens

TIM COLLOM 247-8048

to a large sun room. \$670,000



SUPER RENOVATION

4 bedroom 3 bath Fabulous 40's home where old world charm meets all the modern amenities! 2722 square feet with an open floor plan concept connecting the living room and dining room to kitchen with guartz counter tops, and leading to family room that opens to a beautiful backyard. \$1,224,900

JAMIE RICH 612-4000



MCKINLEY PARK

McKinley Park at its best! This 3 bedroom 2 bath home offers a remodeled kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, a vintage fireplace, a spacious floor plan, a wine cellar in the basement, and a large formal dining room. Remodeling garage and studio/art/office space. \$749,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



Wonderful opportunity to own this classic duplex in Midtown Sacrament! Each unit boasts high ceilings with 2 bedrooms and a full bath, living room, dining room with built-in hutch, large kitchen area and sun porch. Large lot and 4 car garage. \$489,000

CHRISTINE BALESTRERI 966-2244



FANTASTIC BUNGALOW

Fantastic East Sac bungalow is ready for a discerning new owner. Fresh paint, refinished hardwood floors, updated baths and a kitchen facelift are just a part of this appealing package. Newer roof, electrical panel & HVAC. \$449,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483

for current home listings, please visit: DUNNIGAN REALTORS.COM 916.484.2030 916.454.5753

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