

Connecting and Communicating in Land Park

See page 2

Getting by on people power in Land Park

City develops plan for pedestrian/bicycle crossing



By Elizabeth Valente
THE LAND PARK NEWS

Walt Seifert, executive director of the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates and avid cyclist, is happy that the city of Sacramento is thinking about the safety and convenient access for cyclists and pedestrians. He says in the past the needs for cyclists and pedestrians have not been considered.

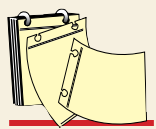
“Railroad tracks, freeways and rivers are all barriers for us, while drivers can get around those barriers, going out of their way is no big deal,” said Seifert. “But when you are using your own power to get around, going a little further does make a difference.”

That is why Seifert is taking an avid interest in the new pedestrian/bicycle overcrossing that extends from the Sacramento City College Light Rail Station to the Curtis Park neighborhoods. According to the city’s Department of Transportation Web site, the plans for the proposed pedestrian/bicycle crossing are cruising right along. This project is in line

See Overpass, page 4

Cyclists in the Land Park, Curtis Park and Pocket areas have much to be excited about in a new overpass geared at aiding bicycle and pedestrian transportation.

◆ INSIDE ◆



Community Calendar

See pages 17, 20-21



End of an era for Tower Records

See page 12



Saying goodbye to a good friend

See page 5

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Land Park: A honeycomb of activity

By Ryan Rose
 THE LAND PARK NEWS

It is not just a park; it's a state of mind. It's not just a pretty part of town; it's home.

To many on the outside of Land Park looking in, this community appears as a tight-knit society of friends and neighbors who have access to some of the city's most wonderful public amenities. But to those who live here, it is so much more.

The residents of Land Park are active members of their community—and that's how they like it. One can't take a stroll through the park or make a stop at Taylor's Market without running into an acquaintance, a friend or a welcoming smile. It is that type of ambiance that brings soul to the area, making it more than a collection of beautiful homes and well-governed landscapes—the heartbeat of Land Park is centered firmly within the lifestyle and livelihood off its denizens.

Looking forward

The Land Park News will echo that signature community spirit in its news coverage. This paper will endeavor to cover the news and events – the quality of life issues – that are important and relevant to Land Park residents and business owners. To meet that end, the paper is looking to the community, as it is your respective stories we wish to tell.

There are great stories and grand people that need coverage, and we aim to give them the notice they deserve.

This paper asks its readers to raise their voices and provide story tips, news reports, photos and letters. Whatever the information, whether it is on school events, sports scores or scenes of everyday life, the Land Park News wants to report on it. There are great stories and grand people that need coverage, and we aim to give them the notice they deserve. In regard to highlighting local residents in particular, this paper will launch a new "Know your neighbor" feature in the coming weeks. Nominate worthy individuals via e-mail at ryanrose@valcomnews.com.

Together, with the help of the community, the Land Park News will remain the voice of Land Park and its many diverse and unique residents.

Please send your story tips and community news to ryanrose@valcomnews.com or call 429-9901.

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1,000 Words

In this photo by Land Park News editor Ryan Rose, we see Land Park's historic Tower Theater as it shimmers in the glow of the golden sunset.

Here is an assignment to all Land Park News readers out there: We want to see your photos, too. Send your digital pictures to ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Show us your favorite picture of Land Park, whether it be of a person, place or thing (any noun will do), and we will share it with our readers. Good luck, shutterbugs.



New editor on board

Ryan Rose has joined the Valley Community Newspaper group as the new editor for the Land Park News, taking over for outgoing editor Colleen Truelsen as she pursues a master's degree in anthropology.

Rose, a resident of Sacramento for 10 years, is the former managing editor of the recently closed Sacramento Union newspaper and a former community news reporter for the Gold Country Media newspaper chain.

A graduate of Sacramento State University, Rose holds a B.A. in English and has worked as a news reporter in the Sacramento region since 2002, having provided freelance editorial support for the Valley Community Newspaper group, Prosper Magazine and the Sacramento News and Review among others.

In addition to his time as a reporter, Rose also worked as the director of communications for Sacramento's historic Christian Brothers High School.

Excited to lead the editorial department of the Valley Community Newspaper group, Rose is eager to reach out to local residents and report on the stories that are important to them.

"It's my goal that this paper continues its mission to report on the good news happening in our community every day," he said.

Rose is a native of California's Central Valley, growing up in Manteca. He lives in East Sacramento with his wife Vanessa, 16-month-old daughter Gabrielle and cat Lexie.

E-mail Ryan Rose at ryanrose@valcomnews.com.



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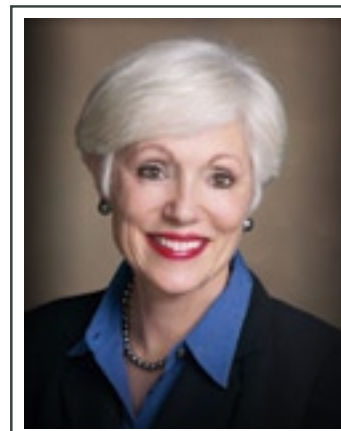
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Overpass

Continued from front page

with the city's sustainability goals of encouraging pedestrian and bicycle trips, promoting the use of transit and reducing dependence on private automobiles.

Getting by on two wheels

The project team, along with Sacramento City College, Union Pacific Railroad, and Petrovich Development Company, have decided to build a ramp that is long enough to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

"Stairs will be added on each end of the ramp to shorten the distance for pedestrians," said Linda Tucker, spokesperson for the city of Sacramento Department of Transportation. "The ramp will accommodate two-way pedestrian

and bicycle traffic. The crossing is just over 1,000 feet long."

Despite the city's good efforts, Seifert feels that the city "could be more creative," and can come up with a less expensive plan that would accommodate both cyclists and walkers without the added expense of a massive structure.

"Since it has to go so high to go over the light rail and heavy rail tracks, the structure is going to be very long – more than two-stories high – and the ADA says it has to have ramps, so the further you go up, the further the ramp has to be," said Seifert.

Seifert also feels that an "at grade" crossing – a junction at which two or more transport axes cross at the same level or grade – or an underground tunnel would be more cost effective.

"There are scores of at grade crossings for cyclists and pedes-

trians in Midtown, so it is feasible," said Seifert. "Crossing the track at 90-degree angle, which is what you would be doing if you were crossing on a bicycle, it's when you traveling parallel to the track and get the wheel of the bike caught into the groove into the track, that is the issue."

The feasibility and environmental documentation study show the crossing between Sacramento City College and Curtis Park Village along with environmental impacts, costs and alternatives. That is why city developers have dismissed using the grade crossing alternative because of interference with the railroad tracks; the underground tunnel alternative was dismissed because of the enclosed design and hazardous on-site materials.

"A tunnel poses fatal flaws in terms of project cost and nego-



Photo courtesy the city of Sacramento

The project area for the new overcrossing is a major hub for pedestrian and bicycle activity. Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists must traverse multiple rail lines as they travel south to Sutterville Road. This multi-lane, high-speed facility does not cater to alternate modes of transportation and can be inconvenient to traverse.

tiations with Union Pacific and UP's requirement that the city would need to maintain a heavy rail structure, which we are not equipped to do," said Tucker. "Additionally, excavation of contaminated soil requiring a pumping and ventilation system and associated security issues with tunnels all add up to a tunnel project being completely unrealistic."

The city of Sacramento has received \$500,000 through the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' Community Design Grant program for this project, which has funded the feasibility study and initial environmental study for the crossing. The focus is on the pedestrian/bicycle project and does not use any general funds from the city.

"As is typical with many capital improvement projects, the city is seeking state funds to design and construct the project," said Tucker. "With funding uncertain at the state level, the city can only estimate and not guarantee when it will be designed and built, but no general funds will be used."

City developers say construction won't likely begin for at least another two-to-three years, depending on funding. Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists must cross multiple rail lines as they travel south to Sutterville Road.

For more information, visit www.CityofSacramento.org/transportation/engineering/sccbikeped. Contact Elizabeth at vcnnews@valcomnews.com.

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Sacramento Zoo mourns loss of orangutan

Special to *the Land Park News*

The Sacramento Zoo community was saddened by the death of Urban, their male Sumatran orangutan. Urban was born at the Sacramento Zoo on Feb. 18, 1981 and died late last month, on Feb. 25.

“We had the great pleasure of watching Urban grow up at the Sacramento Zoo. He was a magnificent orangutan and will be greatly missed,” said Jim Schnormeier, zoo curator.

Urban’s parents were long-time residents of the Sacramento Zoo and Urban was their second offspring. Urban has shared the exhibit with different female companion orangutans during his adult life.

During the past few weeks, Urban had developed a disease of his neuromuscular system that compromised his ability to use his legs, and made him extremely weak and lethargic. He was examined at the Dr. Murray E. Fowler Veterinary Hospital at the Sacramento Zoo and was transported to the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital where he underwent extensive diagnostic testing, including an MRI of his brain and spinal cord. Testing indicated that he had severe inflammation in his nervous system and in the muscles of his legs. Urban was being treated and was in stable condition until Feb. 25 when his condition rapidly deteriorated and he died.

Sacramento Zoo veterinary and animal care staff worked closely with local experts including neurologists from UC Davis VMTH, veterinarians from the California National Primate Research Center, physicians from Sutter Hospital and experts from around the country. As an Association of Zoos and Aquariums member, the zoo consulted with the Species Coordinator of the Orangutan Species Survival Plan, who helped to put the zoo in touch with the U.S. institutions that have orangutans



A longtime resident of the Sacramento Zoo, Urban, pictured here at right with a fellow orangutan, passed away late last month on Feb. 25.

Photo courtesy the Sacramento Zoo

and other ape species for their help.

Zookeepers provided him with special care, comfortable bedding and his favorite foods.

“We are appreciative of the enormous amount of time and patience shown by our devoted animal care staff in watching Urban, encouraging him to eat and drink, making sure that he took his medication,” said Raymund Wack, zoo veterinarian.

Many local Sacramentans grew up with Urban over the past 28 years, watching him live his life as an inte-

gral part of their zoo experience. Zoo officials report that it is with great sadness that they say goodbye to Urban, an orangutan who brought joy to so many with his engaging personality. Zoo officials add that zoos are homes for some animals that are nearing extinction and that Urban was a true ambassador for his species; when we share our hearts with an animal, they said, we share in the experience of their lives.

Tell us your favorite memory of Urban—e-mail Ryan Rose at ryanrose@valcomnews.com.

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Inside and Outside Land Park

Catch a flick for free

In today's current economic realities, nothing can beat a free night at the movies.

The Didion/Lewis Park Community Center will showcase classic movies the third Saturday of each month, beginning Saturday, April 18. The center will open its doors at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will start promptly at 7 p.m. The first movie is "Now, Voyager" starring Bette Davis, Claude Rains, Paul Heinreid and Gladys Cooper.

This classic of mid-20th century American cinema garnered an Academy Award for Best Music Score

in 1942. Davis and Cooper also received nominations for their acting performances.

Mark calendars for this fun evening and be sure to plan ahead for Saturday, May 16, when the black and white of the night will be the 1944 classic "Laura," starring Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews, Clifton Webb, Lane Chandler and Vincent Price.

For more information, call Margaret at 421-3908.

Pass on a good book

Donate the gift of a good read to the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library book drive. New and slight-

ly used books will be accepted through to Friday, April 24. Donations can be dropped-off at 14 El Morro Ct.

The books will be sold at the fourth annual Book Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 25, at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. Monies raised will go to support the new Pocket-Greenhaven library.

For more information, contact Kathi Windheim at 392-0101 or Bonnie Bartholomew at 421-7788.

Fun at Fairytale Town

It's springtime at Fairytale Town and that means FunCamps. Children between the ages of 3 and 10 have special adventures awaiting them. The fun begins during their school break in April, and lasts through August. For five consecutive days, trained staff members at Fairytale Town will lead children in special activities grouped by age and theme.

Starting Monday, April 6, Humpty Dumpty Days returns by popular demand through Friday, April 10. Humpty Dumpty Days are designed for children aged 3 to 5 and will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For older kids (aged 6-10), Adventure Playground picks up from 1 to 4 p.m.



Photo by Mitch Lorens

Springtime is here and FunCamps return to Fairytale Town in April.

The next week, April 13 to 17, Fairytale Town will offer My First FunCamp from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (exclusively for children age 3), with Stars on Stage for all budding thespians (children aged 5 to 8) from 1 to 4 p.m.

Additional FunCamps include: Little Ranch Hands, How Green Can We Be?, Kids Making Music, Art for Little Hands, Puppets R Fun, Hands on Art and Belly Biology.

Fairytale Town FunCamp registration is now open for members (registration for non-members began Monday, March 23). Fairytale Town members receive a special discount for FunCamps, in addition to the early registration option.

For more information about the FunCamps, please contact the Fairytale Town Education Spe-

See Inside, page 7

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Inside

Continued from page 6

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City receives \$20 million for railyards

With March 19 approval by Sacramento Area Council of Governments of \$20 million in economic stimulus funds, the city of Sacramento now has enough funding to move passenger and freight rail tracks at the city's railyard, which is the critical path to railyards development. These new funds are in addition to millions approved by the state and federal government in the last two weeks for track relocation for the railyards.

Construction on the estimated \$60 million track relocation project is expected to start early next year.

"I am very excited by today's news," said Mayor Kevin Johnson. "The railyards represents a signature development opportunity for our city and it's critical that we work as hard as possible to bring in dollars from federal and state sources."

Recently, the city gained approval on \$950,000 for track relocation in a federal bill supported by Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, and Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer.

The city also learned it would receive \$5.26 million in state Proposition 1B funds for the west tunnel connecting Old Sacramento with the railyards' central shops. These recent commitments will be added to the pots of money for track relocation the city was awarded last year, mainly from state Proposition 1B.

The city also will be able to re-surface at least five additional roads this summer, double the number of streets typically budgeted for the city's annual street overlay program with the recently awarded \$8 million in federal stimulus funds.

Crocker Art Museum holds auction

The Crocker Art Museum will bring together regional artists and art collectors to raise funds for education programs during two Art Auction events. The events return to Cal Expo for a third time while the Museum is under construction, allowing more than 200 of the regions most distinguished artists to participate.

"The Art Auction and Preview Party are my favorite events at the Crocker," said Lial A. Jones, Museum Director. "This is the perfect way for patrons to support both the Museum and practicing artists. The beginning collector and the seasoned connoisseur will certainly find works they'll want to take home."

The Art Auction, set to start at 5 p.m. on June 6, includes silent and live auctions, an elegant outdoor dinner buffet by Bella Bru Café and Catering, and heated competition as attendees bid on their favorite artworks by the likes of Pat Mahony, Mark Bowles, Robert Brady and more.

Art Auction tickets are \$150 and available on April 18. Tickets can be purchased by calling (916) 808-7843.

The Art Auction Preview Party is a casual evening reception with a no-host bar and buffet, and will take place on May 28 from 6-9 p.m. Mingle with Art Auction artists and preview their works to



Photo courtesy

The Crocker Art Museum Art Auction Preview Party is a casual evening reception and will take place on Thursday, May 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. The museum, pictured here before construction of the building's new wing, will use the funds raised to develop educational programs.

be sold at the 2009 Art Auction. Bid on works in the acclaimed Big Names, Small Art Silent Auction where original artworks start at just \$25.

Admission to the Art Auction Preview Party is free, and parking is \$10. RSVP to (916) 808-7789 or cam@cityofsacramento.org.

For more information, visit crockerart-museum.org/auction. An online preview of the artworks up for auction will be available May 1.

Reading lives at Sierra 2

The Life History Writing Class from the Senior Center at Sierra 2 will do dramatic readings of their life stories at the 24th Street Theatre on Sunday, April 19. The theatre is located on 24th St. just south of Broadway after Castro Ave., and is

part of the Sierra 2 Community Center. Admission is \$5 at the door. A reception will follow in Curtis Hall. The writers will also have a book of their stories for sale at the reception for \$5. All proceeds go to support the Senior Center.

The Life History Writing Class is now in its eighth year with an average weekly participation of 16-26 seniors ranging in age from 62 to 92. The stories cover the gamut of their lives from their childhood memories in the 1920s to 1940s, to World War II to current experiences with technology. Joe and Bubbles Miguel have been facilitating the group faithfully since its inception.

For more information, please call senior center coordinator Mae Denman at 455-6339.

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Weave a tangled web and win big

By Art German
THE LAND PARK NEWS

The public is invited to the Hart Senior Center on 27th and J Streets on Saturday, April 11, to view a faceoff among contestants seeking the top prize as Sacramento's No. 1 liar in an annual contest sponsored by the Storytellers Guild.

The competition has been a tradition since 1998 when

the Storyteller's Guild's first liars contest was won by Marian Kile, a Sacramento native who will host this year's competition. Kile said attendance is open to non-members who are being courted, she said, "Because liars from all over will try their best to top each other in a tall tale. Attendance is free and we need an appreciative audience."

There is a \$10 registration fee for non-members who

would like to become liar contest participants. The first prize winner selected by the judges will take home a prize of \$25, Kile said.

Registration is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and the competition will begin around noon. "The lie needs to be less than five minutes long," Kile said, "and the story must be in good taste, and the clothing must be 'appropriate.'"

She cautioned that words "of a vulgar or sexual nature are not allowed and storytellers who go astray will promptly be removed from the stage."

The storyteller's guild and liars competition are side activities for Kile, who also is a board member of the Renaissance Guild, a learning-in-retirement program at Sacramento State.

More information can be obtained from Kile at 424-0532.



Photos courtesy DW Elms

All about bonsai

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai of Sacramento holds its 32nd annual show from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Many extraordinary bonsai plants, some 50, 75 and 100 years old, will be on display and for sale. Sensei John Ushida will be doing bonsai demonstrations both days and club members will be on-hand throughout the two-day show to give advice on plant care and arranging. The show also features traditional suiseki, or rock formations. There will also be door prizes and raffle prizes. Admission is free. For information phone 396-3617.

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Ask Officer Michelle

Answering questions on law enforcement

By Officer Michelle Lazark
SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Editor's note: Ask Officer Michelle your question by emailing her at mlazark@pd.cityofsacramento.org or visit her online blog at http://blog.sacpd.org.

Signing up for ride-alongs Hello Officer Michelle,

In regard to ride-alongs, where is the best location to mail the application? Both my daughter and I are finishing up on our [Administration of Justice] degrees and would like to participate in a ride-along.

**Thanks for your time.
Posted by Bociba**

Dear Bociba,

A ride-along is a great way to see the inner workings of what a police officer does on a day-to-day basis. This is a very exciting and important job and you will see that either you will want to apply the day after your ride-along, or you may realize, "I wouldn't do this job even if my salary was one million a year!"

If you want to go on a ride-along in our south jurisdiction, you would mail the application to 5303 Franklin Blvd., Sac-

ramento, 95820. If you want to ride in the north area, you would mail it to 3550 Marysville Blvd., Sacramento, 95838. If you want to ride in our central region, you would mail it to 300 Richards Blvd., Sacramento, 95811. The application will be processed through whichever station you apply. Be sure that you are a criminal justice student. They will waive the requirement that you must live in the city in order to go on a ride-along with us. Hope you like it!

**Take care,
Officer Michelle**

What to do in car accident

I was rear-ended downtown by a driver who was not insured (his dad had insurance on the vehicle, minimal, 5K for damages, which will not cover my damages); had no license (only a DMV ID card); and the registration on the car was expired. An officer came and looked at the driver's information, called it in and left on another call. Why was this person not punished by the law or arrested? He is totally illegal.

Posted by vetta2d

Dear vetta2d,

Wouldn't you know! What an inconvenience. First

off, did the officer provide you with a case number? It would have been a number starting with 08- followed with five or six other numbers. In the case of vehicle accidents, if the parties aren't injured, the vehicles don't require tows and no obvious violations such as DUI drivers, unlicensed or suspended licensed drivers were present, drivers exchange information with each other and report it to their insurance companies. If there are violations, a report must be taken. The officer could have taken a report. If there is a citation to be issued, the officer usually sends the citation to the driver through the mail once the investigation is complete. This may have been the case here and you wouldn't have been notified. The driver would then have to go to traffic court to clear the ticket, or to receive punishment for the violation. A failure to make the court date would result in a warrant.

The driver may have had a driver's license. People sometimes drive without their physical licenses. If the driver did have a valid li-

cence, it would be depicted in our computer system. The officer could cite him at a later time for not driving with a license and the citation would be sent to his residence.

As far as the dollar amount of your damages, your in-

surance companies will have to hash it out. What usually happens is that your insurance company will cover the difference and then go after the other party's insurance company for the difference.

**Good luck,
Officer Michelle**

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Spring awakening around town

Events, activities and conservation tips from the councilman's office

Tradition spring egg hunts are just around the corner in District 4:

- Saturday, April 4: Belle Cooledge Library Park, 5600 South Land Park Drive.
- Saturday, April 4: West Land Park, 12th Avenue at 13th Street.
- Saturday, April 11: Southside Park, 6th and U streets

Give blood; save a life

The Sacramento Police Department will be hosting a blood drive from 8 a.m. to noon, Thursday, March 19, at a Bloodmobile in the parking lot of the Public Safety Center, 5770 Freepoint Boulevard.

Give blood and receive a free t-shirt.

To make an appointment or for questions regarding this blood drive, contact Susan Booker at 808-0800 or e-mail sbooker@pd.cityofsacramento.org.

Special instructions:

- Please bring photo ID.
- Eat and drink before donating.
- Appointments are preferred; walk-ins welcome if space is available.

Library news

The Sacramento Public Library is the first in Northern California's public library system



ROB FONG
DISTRICT 4 NEWS

to launch an iPod compatible audio-book collection. The new collection is accessible to Sacramento Public Library cardholders, with current accounts, from their Mac or PC home computers, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for no charge.

Customers can download popular novels, well-known classics, resume and job-interview tips, language-learning audio-books and more through the Sacramento Public Library website.

To find out more about this newly launched system visit www.saclibrary.org.

Hina Matsuri (Girls Day Festival)

Hina Matsuri, a big celebration in Japan, is coming to Fairytale Town, courtesy of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club.

On Sunday, March 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., enjoy ikebana displays, origami making, a traditional doll display with presentation in the Children's Theater, and much more.

Annual Recycling Contest

The annual Phone Book Recycling contest has begun and several elementary schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District have already signed up to participate.

Students, parents, friends and neighbors are encouraged to bring their phone books to their elementary school for recycling. Participating schools will be awarded a cash prize for the books they collect. The school that collects the most books will receive a recognition party and participate in a tree planting event.

Why recycle? This is a great way for Sacramento residents to recycle their old phone books while benefiting their neighborhood schools and helping keep waste from landfills. Recycled phone books can be used to make several new products, including recycled paper, lumber, insulation, egg cartons, and much more.

Additionally, each ton of recycled paper saves three yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatt hours of energy and 7,000 gallons of water. Contest ends March 27, so hurry and take your old phone book to a participating school.

For more information about recycling, please visit www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities or call 808-5454.

'Tip of the Month' Water conservancy

Water conservation tips by the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities:

- Cut one or two minutes off your shower (save up to 700 gallons a month).
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth (save up to 800 gallons a month).
- Run only full loads of laundry or dishes (save up to 800 gallons a month).
- Use a high-efficiency washing machine (save up to 30 gallons a load).
- Repair a leaky faucet (save up to 190 gallons a month).
- Use a pistol grip nozzle instead of the house run (save up to 10 gallons per minute).
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow down evaporation (save up to 1,500 gallons a month).

For more information, contact the Water Conservation Office at 264-5605.

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Sunday	#24	Turkey & Avocado <small>* plus tax</small>

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Sign of the times: The end of an era for Tower Records

By Miranda Menestrina
THE LAND PARK NEWS

Hundreds of area residents turned out March 12, to witness the end of an era and watch as the original neon Tower Records sign from the company's first store, on the corner of Watt and El Comino avenues, was carefully removed.

Installed in 1960, the sign has been a familiar sight in the city where Tower Records began, and the crowd that gathered was testament to the fact that the business played a big part in the lives of those who grew up here.

"So many kids grew up listening to music in the booths," said Kristina Swanson, deputy director for the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation at the Sacramento History Museum. "Tower Records was where it all happened."

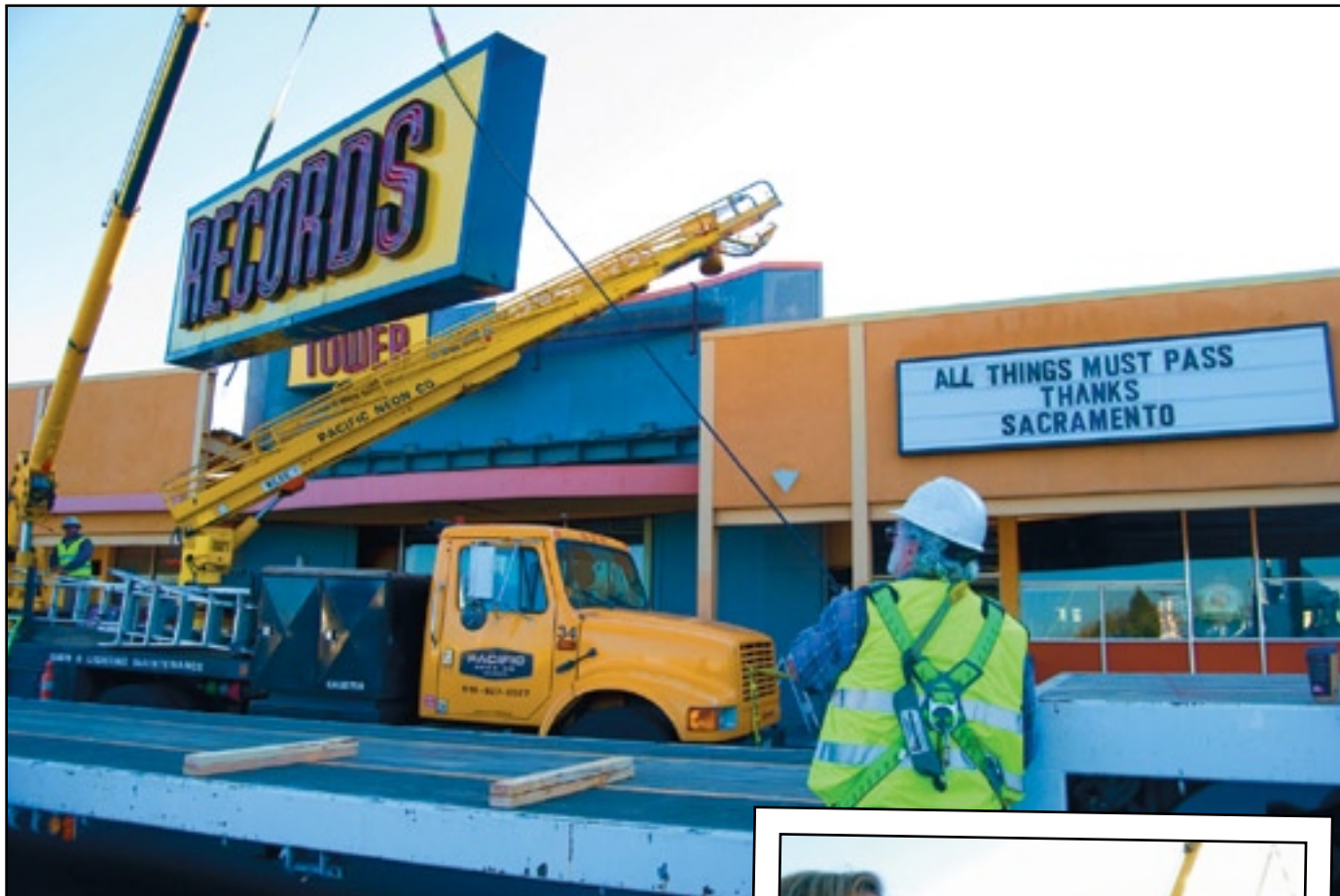
The sign was removed to make way for a new business, and was donated to the Sacramento Archives & Museum Collection Center along with the Tower Books sign on the adjacent building. In the future, after some renovation, the two signs and other items will be part of an exhibit.

"We're just in the beginning stages," said History Manager for the City and County of Sacramento, Marsha Eymann, of the exhibit project. "There's a lot of stuff out there still, and it would be nice to pull together the whole story of the business and the music scene in Sacramento."

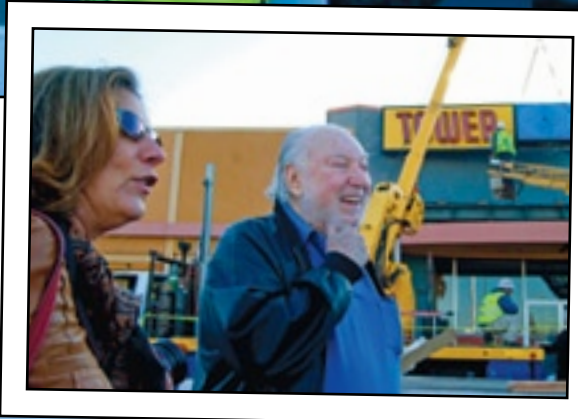
Eymann believes that the exhibit will be ready in three to five years, and hopes it will travel around the country.

Tower Records originated on Broadway when Russ Solomon started selling records out of his father's pharmacy, which shared a building and name with Tower Theater. After the first store opened on Watt Avenue in 1960, expansion of the company was unstoppable. Unfortunately, the company filed for bankruptcy in 2004 and 2006, and finally shut the 89 Tower Records stores throughout the United States in 2006. However, many stores continue to operate around the world.

Contact Miranda Menestrina at vcn@valcom-news.com.



The neon sign on what was the very first Tower Records store was removed March 12. The sign is being donated to the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center. Inset: Tower Records founder Russ Solomon was on hand for the event.



The neon Tower Records signs were removed with the help and donation of services by Pacific Neon and SR Moving and Storage. The signs will be moved to the storage facility of the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center at McClellan Park, where they will be preserved for all Sacramentans. At left, Tower Records first employee Rick Hernandez talks about the occasion.

Photos by
Kati Garner

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Friends of Library angry with process **Robbie Waters Library (?)**

By Colleen Truelsen
THE LAND PARK NEWS

The president of the Friends of the Sacramento's Pocket-Greenhaven branch has resigned and last month's Friends' meeting minutes show the group uncomfortable, disappointed and angry with the process that led to a City Council vote for the formal name of the new library.

The public is invited to the Friends' 6:30 p.m. meeting Thursday, March 26, at Lisbon School, when, according to acting President Bonnie Bartholomew, one agenda item will be a clarification of the naming process for the library.

The 15,000-square foot, \$15 million library is to be built with the new School of Sciences and Engineering where Gloria Drive meets Havenside Drive at Swale River Way.

The Sacramento City Council voted at its Feb. 24 meeting for a formal library name honoring the area's 14-year city councilman: "Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library." The idea, city staff said, came from a recommendation by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

While there is no dispute that the Friends put forth a recommendation for that name, members said they were surprised to find it had already gone to the City Council for a vote.

Minutes of the Friends meeting on Friday, Feb. 27, show their concern:


"Robbie Waters' name will be included in the new branch's name," reads an item under new business. "There was a lengthy discussion pertaining to feeling of discomfort, disappointment and anger over the process. Mary (McDonald) presented a draft resolution regard(ing) our preference for future communication processes. The item was deferred until next month so that members present could review it."

Some time after that meeting President Delores Nuse resigned.

Waters' District Director Pat Clark will attend to answer questions about the city process.

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Spacious in Land Park

Very nice & spacious updated 2 bed, 2 bath Tudor including large master suite with sitting area, walk-in closet & glass slider to backyard. Newly remodeled kitchen has stainless steel appliances, new countertops, pretty decorative metal backsplash & beadboard ceiling. Cute breakfast nook w/ wainscoting. Huge dining room, living room w/ fireplace. HDWD floors, inside laundry room w/ sink. Detached 2-car garage, newer CH&A, some new elect & plumb. Move-in ready!.....\$364,000

Gorgeous Condo

Wall of windows offers lots of light & shows off fab view of gorgeous grounds & canopy of trees. Spacious condo feat. large master ste. w/3 closets & balcony, formal DR, huge LR w/large built-in & full length balcony, all elect. kit., inside laundry & tons of storage/closet space. Original condition, well maintained - could be spectacular! HOA dues incl. security, club, exercise, & storage rms, recently resurfaced/tiled pool, dog-run & ext. window washing! Easy living abounds in this luxurious high-rise.. \$375,000



Darling Dollhouse in East Sacramento

Features include living rm/dining rm with lots of light & built-in bookshelves/storage, sweet kitchen overlooking backyard with newer gas range & Bosch DW, all dual panes except kitchen & laundry, charming side courtyard & another yard in back. Lovely landscaping, newer HVAC. Close to everything, including Light Rail. Darling!.....\$359,000





Calendar

There's always more calendar at www.valcomnews.com

GET IN THE CALENDAR

Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost.

MARCH-APRIL 5

Ceramics retrospective showcasing Esquibel and Sasser

There will be a retrospective show of ceramic art at Schumacher Ceramics and Gallery in Clarksburg, 36530 Riverview Dr., by retired Sacramento City College professors George Esquibel, former Ceramics Department professor from 1971 to 2006, and Teiko Sasser, the instructional assistant in Ceramics from 1972 to 1993 and then part-time faculty in Ceramics until retiring in 2001. Regular gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 744-1062 for information on parking. For over three decades, this team of the "people's professors" taught multiple generations in the art of Ceramics. For further event information, contact Sonya Schumacher 505-4239.

MARCH 28

Japanese roots workshop

Connect with your Japanese roots during Lost and Found, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Asian Community Center, 7375 Park City Drive. Speaker Leo Goto, who has traced his ancestors back 36 generations to 645 AD, gives the necessary tools and information to begin or refine your own family tree. Donation, \$5 per person, reservations or information, call 395-2589 or e-mail jkpca21@yahoo.com.

Early roses in bloom

Enjoy early blooming rose plants on this Saturday morning tour at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 10 a.m. Meet at the cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street; park across the street from the 10th Street gate. Free. Information at 448-0811.

MARCH 29

Concert at La Sierra

Bring the entire family to a concert featuring music from ballet, Big Band and Broadway, 3 p.m., in Smith Hall at the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road. General admission, \$5; children, students and seniors are free. For tickets, call 489-2576.

Ethnic dance class

Free Introduction to Ethnic Dance class, 2 to 6 p.m., at the YLI Hall on the corner of 27th and N streets. Learn European and Middle Eastern dances, no partners needed. Call 961-6144 or visit www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil.

Nonfiction writers meet

California Writers' Club Nonfiction Network meeting, 9 a.m., IHOP Restaurant, 2216 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Sandy Martin, noted author of several books on poetry, will speak on "Marketing Your Poetry." Guests welcome. Information at 944-3185.

APRIL 3, 4

Benefit plant sales

AIDS Benefit plant sales by garden columnist Robert Hamm, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the covered parking lot behind The Gifted Gardener, 18th and J streets. Wide selection of hardy perennials for this area and hard-to-find varieties. Proceeds benefit the children's projects of Sunburst Projects. Information and volunteer sign-ups at 923-3745.

Fashion benefit at St. Francis High

Northern California's sophisticated style goes on display with Sacramento's trendiest boutiques providing the new looks for spring and summer on Friday and Saturday, April 3-4, when St. Francis High School presents "Once Upon A Time," its annual mother-daughter fashion show. Featured clothes and accessories are from Bijoux, Blush Boutique, Davids Bridal, Jessica McClintock, Katia's Collections, Kenneth Cole, Crazy Mary's, Sugar Shack, Madam Butterfly, MW Tuxedos, Patrick James, Pinkadot, Quiksilver and Serendipity. Hair and style makeovers are provided by Hoshall's Salon & Spa and Federico Beauty Institute. Proceeds benefit the school's scholarship fund. For tickets, visit www.stfrancisshs.org or call 452-3461.

Prayers for jobs, economy

Christian community prayer service for your job and family, 10:30 a.m., Riverside Wesleyan Church, 6449 Riverside Blvd. Information at 391-9845, or see the website www.riversidewesleyanchurch.com.

APRIL 2

Free concert at SCC

Student soloists present popular vocal tunes at Sacramento City College's Spring Pops Concert by the Choral Department, 12:10 p.m., 3835 Freeport Blvd., Little Theatre, Room A6. Free. Information at 558-2496.

Leher at the Crest

California Lectures brings in journalist and author Jim Lehrer, executive director and anchor of "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer," 7:30 p.m., Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Tickets, \$27, through www.tickets.com, by phoning 225-2277, or in person at the Crest Theatre box office. Lecture preview at 6:30 p.m. by Sacramento State University professor Fiona Glade. Information from California Lectures at 737-1300 or visit www.californialectures.org.

APRIL 3

Pops concert at SCC

Student soloists present popular vocal tunes at Sacramento City College's Spring Pops Concert by the Choral Department, 8 p.m., 3835 Freeport Blvd., Little Theatre, Room A6. Cost, \$5. Information at 558-2496.

APRIL 4

Elmhurst potluck, egg hunt

Elmhurst Parents Group's fourth annual Spring Potluck and Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Coloma Community Center, 4623 T St. Features an egg hunt for all ages, a visit by the Easter

Bunny, arts and crafts, raffle prizes, face painting and fun. Bring a side dish to share. Information from Leslie Oberst at 206-1096.

Backyard composting seminar

Learn how to save money, reduce your waste and improve the quality of your soil in a free Backyard Composting Seminar hosted by The City of Sacramento Department of Utilities Solid Waste Services, 8-10 a.m., Fremont Community Garden, 14th and Q streets. Attend the seminar and purchase a compost bin for \$65. For more

information, call 264-5011 or visit www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities.

Greenhaven Easter Carnival

Greenhaven Lutheran Church and Angel's Nest Child Development Center's Easter Carnival, noon to 2 p.m. rain or shine, with carnival house, bounce house, Easter Egg hunt, craft activities, the Easter Bunny and refreshments. At the church, 475 Florin Road. Information at 428-8449 or on the web: www.greenhavenlutheran.org.

See more Calendar page 20

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From left: Wes, Ted, and Henry

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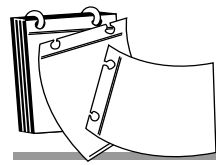
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Calendar

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APRIL 4

Jensen plant, craft sale

Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden plant sale at the garden, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5930 Muldrow Road, Carmichael. Vendor tables available for \$10. Information at 338-2072.

Conflicts and cooperation

Sierra Arden United Church of Christ hosts a day-long workshop on conflicts in relationships, "Celebrating Conflicts and Cooperation," 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for ages 14 and up. Cost, \$25 per person, \$40 for couples. Information and registration from Mark at 216-5700, or e-mail 3C!@newpowerlearning.com.

Jensen Garden workday

Volunteer Friends of Jensen Botanical Garden workday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Charles C. Jensen Botanic Garden, 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch or beverage. More information from Tracy Kerth at 485-5322 x 23 or e-mail: tracy@carmichaelpark.com.

APRIL 4, 5

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai show

Annual Bonsai Sekiyu Kai show features sensei John Ushida demonstrations, door prizes and more, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Buddhist Church, Riverside Boulevard at X Street. Free, public welcome. Information at 396-3617.

APRIL 5

See the giant colon

Sutter Cancer Center free community health clinic features the "Prevent Cancer Super Colon," an inflatable, 20-foot long, 8-foot high human colon replica that serves as an interactive educational tool, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 2800 L St., classrooms 1-4. Free parking in south lot across from the center. Information at 733-8327.

APRIL 7

How much is your art worth?

Have your art informally appraised at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Lee Ka-

valjian and Randall Abbott will appraise Asian art and artifacts, while Doug Scougle will appraise gold and silver coins, and vintage photographs. Make an appointment with Judy at 482-8351.

Legacy writing workshop

Arden Hills Resort Club and Spa offers a "Leaving a Legacy" writing series to determine individual legacies and help participants in writing it down, 6 p.m., 1220 Arden Hills Lane. Cost, \$20. Reservations required at 482-6111 or see the website: www.ardenhills.net.

Casa Gardens wine event

Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, hosts a wine tasting social, 11:30 a.m., with wine, hors d'oeuvres, lunch and a talk on "What's on a Label." Cost, \$16, with proceeds benefiting the Sacramento Children's Home. Reservations and pre-payment required at 452-2809.

Recorder group meets

The Sacramento Recorder Society meets under the baton of recorder-virtuoso Judy Linsenber, who will bring beautiful and interesting music to conduct, 7 to 9:15 p.m., 890 57th St. Newcomers welcome. Bring instrument and music stand. Information on the website, www.sacrecorders.org, phone 489-2771 or 391-7520.

Strive for Strength retreat

The Strive for Strength retreat, which is meant to inform educate and empow-

er female participants, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SASF/Bel Air Wong Family Community Center, 9040 High Tech Court in Elk Grove. The event is open to all young females, aged 12 to 18 years old. Registration is \$60 per participant and includes a T-shirt, continental breakfast, lunch and a give-away b

APRIL 8

Arden Hills chef secrets

"Live with Obadiah" cooking class using lean meats features Arden Hills Resort Club and Spa executive chef Obadiah Huetter 6 p.m., 1220 Arden Hills Lane. Cost, \$20, reservations required at 482-6111 or on the website: www.ardenhills.net.

Rheumatoid arthritis info

Rheumatology specialist Dr. Kenneth Wiesner presents information on advances in arthritis treatment options and provides information on community resources available to assist with managing arthritis, 6 p.m., Sutter Cancer Center, 2800 L St. Free. Space limited. Reservations, information at 1-877-361-2663 and select option 5.

APRIL 9

Computer club meets

Mission Oaks Computer Club meets to hear Adam Lacey from Applications, Etc. discuss managing files, folders and pho-

tos, 1 to 3 p.m., Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. Visitors welcome. Information at 366-1687 or the website www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

APRIL 11

County discussions

Residents can discuss issues with County Supervisor Susan Peters during her "Office Hours" at Carmichael Park, from 9:30-11 a.m. For information, call 485-5322, or visit www.carmichaelpark.com.

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

The East Sacramento-Midtown Kiwanis Club will be hosting its 22nd annual Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday at McKinley Park's Clunie Clubhouse in Sacramento. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-11:30 a.m., \$5 for adults and #3 for children. Free egg hunts start at 9:30 a.m. and are divided by age groups. For more information, call 484-1314.

Pocket's spring egg hunt

Annual Pocket Spring Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m., Parkway Oaks Park, next to Lisbon Elementary School, 7555 South Land Park Drive. Free. Sponsored by City Councilman Robbie Waters. Bring a basket - and a camera. Friendly bunny for posing with, arts and crafts. Information at 808-3821.

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Egg hunt and pancakes, too

Carmichael's annual Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast returns to Carmichael Park, the egg hunt at 10 a.m. (arrive 30 minutes early) and breakfast served 7 to 11 a.m. Includes live music, clowns, fire trucks and more. The egg hunt is free, but bring a basket. Pancakes cost \$5, children 12 and under, \$3. Information at 483-7826.

MONDAYS

Tai Chi at Hart Center

Chinese exercise combines specific movements and relaxation, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Instructor, Mamie Woo. Information at 808-5462.

Hatha yoga class

Instructor Pat Shaw teaches students to align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation, 3 to 4 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Information at 808-5462. Repeats Wednesdays, Fridays.

Gray Eagles meet

Gray Eagles, a social group for men and women, hears guest speakers on air shows, flying and warbirds, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., second Mondays of the month. Visitors welcome. Free, at the Hometown Buffet (private dining room), 4300 Florin Road. Information at 421-0844.

Newcomer's Buffet

The Widowed Persons Association of California invite any and all widows and widowers to attend their Newcomer's Buffet and Social at 5:30 p.m., every third Monday, at the Plaza Hof Brau, El Camino at Watt Avenue. The cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu. For more information, call 972-9722.

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St. Robert School is proud to announce that it will be opening a "Transitional Kindergarten" class for the year 2009-2010 school year. This class is for children entering their 5th year of life by October 31, 2009. Our day will include:

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We offer Monday thru Friday classes as well as part time. For full day students, students will stay for lunch, naptime, and extra activities in the afternoon. We offer a safe, caring and nurturing environment for our children. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact **Demetria Berry** at **(916) 452-2111** extension 28.

The word is out and many parents are interested. So please contact **Mrs. Berry** as soon as possible to reserve your child's place. Please make sure to spread the words. Registration will begin May 2009.



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Incredible South Land Park home featuring 3 bedrooms & 2 baths, gleaming wood floors, updated kitchen w/ granite counters & breakfast nook, formal dining area & huge master suite w/ walk-in closet & balcony. The living room has a fireplace & built-ins that are sophisticated & charming and the backyard has mature citrus trees & patio, creating a captivating area for entertaining. Walk to Land Park, the Sacramento Zoo & Sac City College & enjoy a home that has it all, amenities & location!

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Visual link for generations

Pocket author's books puts a family's history and love 'In Grandpa's Hands'

Pocket resident Marlena E. Uhrik is a teacher of teachers.

Her 40-year career comprises educational, public and community service, with numerous awards for improving the quality of life for children and families. Today, she is a consultant for the California Department of Education.

So it was when she was sitting at her father's bedside, fearing his imminent death, she began to think in terms of expression, sharing her thoughts, wondering what it all meant.

She had already written a couple of books, "A Guidebook for Family Day Care Providers," and "The ABC's of Home Improvement." Sitting with her father, then, sorting through her emotions, naturally guided her to another book.

10 QUESTIONS

BY COLLEEN TRUELSEN

"In Grandpa's Hands: A Child's Celebration of the Family," came out last year on Father's Day. It's a visual book, filled with exquisite pencil drawing and short comments for thought.

We asked her 10 questions about this latest book.

1. What was your inspiration for this book?

The inspiration for "In Grandpa's Hands" came to me one day as I sat at my Dad's hospital bedside. He was 85 years old and was recovering from life-threatening surgery. At that moment, I realized that there was a depth of love and

gratitude for him in our family that he had never fully experienced and that it was time to express it. The concept for the book and much of the text were completed with simplicity that very day.

While my dad is still alive today, it was the long battle to recovery that had me reflecting on what my dad meant to me and the entire family—his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Through his struggle to recovery, it became even more apparent who he was, not only to our family, but his friends, and neighbors and the world. "In Grandpa's



Sketch by Barbara Cervone

"It is meant to honor the simple things in life that remind us of our gratitude for the people who bring us joy and happiness."

—Marlena E. Uhrik

Hands" was written to honor not only this Grandpa, but to honor all Grandpas and who they are to the world.

2. This is a very visual book, with simple statements. How do you hope readers will use it?

"In Grandpa's Hands" is designed to promote discussion about the importance of the elderly and their role in our lives and our society. It is meant to honor the simple things in life that remind us of our gratitude for the people who bring us joy and happiness. Hopefully, the book will provide an opportunity for conversations that go deeper than, "Oh, that's a nice book."

This book is meant to provide a whole new level of communication, appreciation and

connectedness between the generations.

It was also designed for early readers and to promote literacy. The constant theme throughout the book of 12 simple, yet poignant, illustrations shows my dad's elderly hands holding 12 different objects. The last page in the book has the most precious illustration of all and that will be something that your readers must discover for themselves (I'm not going to tell what it is!)

In many cases, the objects are common objects, such as a cup, a flower, a hat. On one page is the simple text and on the page facing it is a beautiful pencil drawing that goes with the text. With the use of repetition and many common objects it is hoped that early readers will learn how to read and to relate to the drawings and talk about their Grandpas or someone else that might be like a Grandpa to them.

3. What is your impression of artist Barbara Cervone's interpretations for your words? Did you two talk ahead of time?

It is interesting how Barbara and I worked on this book. I never met her before I wrote the book. I had the concept of the book in my head and developed the idea by taking digital photos of my dad's hands holding each object.

Once it was decided to convey the message through pencil drawings to give the book an "old" feeling, my publish-

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Questions

Continued from page 22

er submitted a digital photo to about four or five artists that he works with. When the artists renditions came back to the publisher, my husband and I met to decide which artist did the best job. I knew instantly that the drawings that Barbara had done captured what I wanted -- the feelings of strength and gentleness in my dad's old, tired hands.

4. Talk about the illustration: "In Grandpa's Hands there is ... a hat."

The objects for the book were chosen by the fact they represent an important aspect of my dad's life. Gardening was everything to my dad. After my mom passed away, my dad would spend hours and hours out in the backyard taking care of his roses.

The hat that he is holding in the illustration is his favorite gardening hat. As you can see, that old straw hat has so much character. You can almost feel the smooth and rough textures of the hat as my dad is holding it. I actually have a print of this illustration in my home. It is one of my favorites.

5. "In Grandpa's Hands there is a ... ball." Why?

The illustration of the baseball reminds me of the times when dad would try to teach my sister and me how to catch a ball. My dad was a very patient man and I know he tried really hard to make it easy for us, but I think in the end, we all tried our best and just had fun.

6. The book's printing and paper is high quality. Was that important to you?

The book's printing and paper is high quality because this is a very special book. It is not like your ordinary children's book. It's almost more of a gift book, a book you would be proud to put on your coffee table. I think the presentation of the book lends to its specialness.

7. Tell us a little about your publisher.

My publisher is Robert Brekke and his company is called Publisher's Design Group Inc. "In Grandpa's Hands" is published under a division of PDG called White Stag Press. Robert lives in Ros-

eville with his wife and children. He has great ideas and is very rigorous in his screening process for books he chooses to publish. It was actually his idea to do pencil drawing illustrations. He has been an inspiration to me. He has made me stretch and grow in new ways so that I have accomplished things I did not know I could accomplish.

8. With your extensive experience in education and with working with children, what do you think should be of primary importance to those raising children?

Of primary importance is to know that you are your child's first teacher. What you say and do and how you act tells your child about you, about him/her, and the world. Children will always be listening and watching and learning from you.

9. Where do parents make their biggest mistakes?

I think one of the biggest "mistakes" I made was not taking time to "be" present with my kids. By this I mean I was always in a hurry with something to do, something on my mind or someplace to go. For 10 years I was a stressed-out single parent and I was so focused on just surviving and making ends meet, working, and going back to school that I felt I had little time to just "be" with my kids and just hang out.

Throughout the years, I have taught parenting classes through Kaiser Hospital, adult

schools and at the pre-school where I was the director. I have shared my stories with parents so that they have an opportunity to take a look at their lives to see what's important to them, what is working and what is not working as well as they would like.

Once, I invited the parents to come to a discussion that I lead with their children. The parents sat in the back of the room and the children sat in front of the room. I asked the kids what they liked best about their parents and in every case, they all said that they loved being with their parents. They loved the times when they went to the park, or colored in their coloring books or went to the beach. I even asked them if they had a choice between getting a new pair of Nikes or going to the park with their parents which would they choose? They all agreed that they wanted to spend time with their parents. It seems like the simple pleasures count the most.

Today, more than ever I get to just "be" with my grandchildren -- with no place to go, nothing to do. I get to take the lessons from the past and just be with them -- for their tears and for their laughter and their smiles and for their lives.

10. Any advice for aspiring authors?

Just do it.

For additional information regarding classes, seminars and consultation, call 421-4161 or go to our Web site: www.in-grandpashands.com.



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