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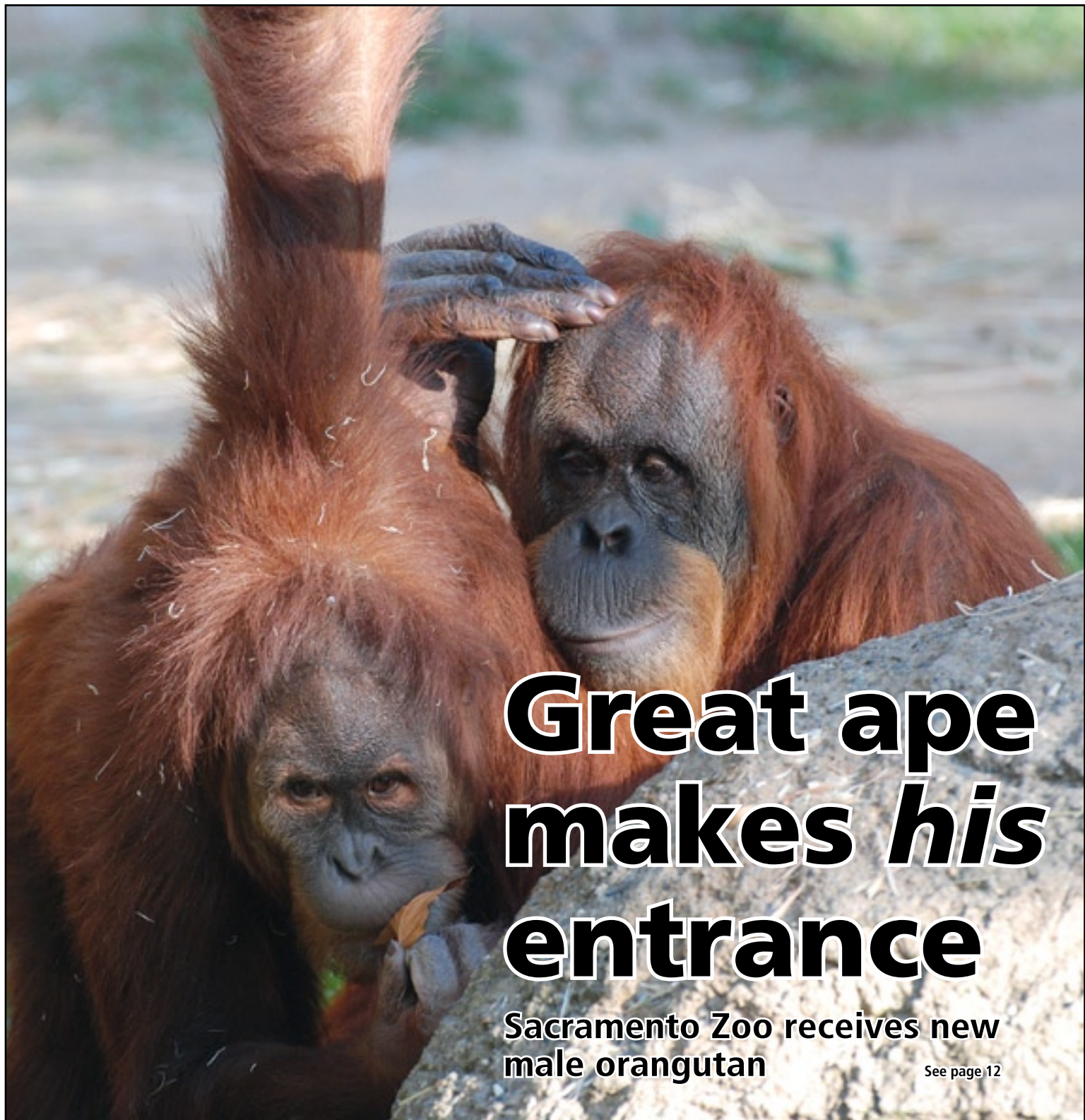
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Photo courtesy

Bravada jumps for the poinsettias at Mueller's Pet Medical Center in Land Park while being held by owner Elizabeth X. Wong.

**Cats have nine lives, but only one family**

By ELIZABETH X. WONG  
Special to The Land Park News

Lucky cats were rescued by human friends in the story written by Susan Laird in The Pocket New and The Land Park News (Nov. 5 and Nov. 12, respectively).

I am compelled to share a similar story about another group effort to return a cat back to her family. Although she is only one cat compared to the 140 felines rescued in Susan Laird's story, it still did take many caring people to bring her safely home. Both the animal shelter and our vets told us that we were extremely lucky to have this happy ending. I hope our sto-

ry will help other families to become extra watchful for small changes in our independent senior cats.

"Bravada" is our 14-year-old cat on thyroid medication. She appeared disoriented for a few days before wandering off during a freezing winter night earlier this month. When we phoned the City of Sacramento Animal Shelter, city budget cuts automatically transferred the call to a "311" number. Brandon answered and was sympathetic, but informed us that the shelter is closed both Sunday and Monday. He suggested e-mailing and

See Cat, page 4

**Bauli Panettone with Mascarpone Cream**

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- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 Bauli Panettone, cut into thick wedges or slices

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2. To serve, cut the Panettone into thick wedges or slices and top with a dollop of the mascarpone cream.

**Remarks:**

Orange liqueur or good quality rum. For a coffee-flavored cream, similar to that used in a Tiramisu, add 2 tablespoons of prepared coffee, mixed with 1 teaspoon instant espresso in step one, to the bowl and proceed with the instructions.

**Our Featured Item:**



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**HOLIDAY GREETINGS  
FROM OUR FAMILY  
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Photo courtesy  
Mason Sheya (center back with green tree shirt) and Charlotte (in black below Mason in center) with their friends that helped make their event a success.

## Spirited pair: Ginger house charity a sweet move

Special to The Land Park News

Two little girls with enough Christmas spirit to warm the hearts of the community kicked off the Christmas season by hosting their annual gingerbread house charity event.

Eight-year-old Mason Sheya (a Brookfield School third grade student) and 5-year-old Charlotte Sheya (a Holy Spirit kindergarten student) hosted their annual gingerbread house making and gift-collecting event at Husick's Country Store in Clarksburg.

The charity started three years ago with Mason and her mother and expanded this year to include her cousin. The two cousins want to make sure they do their part in helping other children in the community smile on Christmas morning.

These two amazing girls host the event each year to collect gifts that are given to the Sacramento Children Receiving home. This year they were able to collect 65 gifts to be donated.

# New look for www.valcomnews.com

The Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. Web site, [www.valcomnews.com](http://www.valcomnews.com), has received a massive makeover, providing for a new and interactive experience when searching for your local news or downloading your favorite community newspapers: the Arden-Carmichael News, the East Sacramento News, The

Land Park News, The Pocket News, The Valley Shopper quarterly publication and the California Kids! monthly magazine.

We appreciate your comments on these developments. Send your thoughts, comments and news tips to [ryanrose@valcomnews.com](mailto:ryanrose@valcomnews.com).

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- Festive New Year's Eve party favors
- Pre-boarding photograph and DJ music
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## Cat: And there she was on page eight of the Web site

Continued from page 2

checking the shelter's Web site, <http://www.cityof-sacramento.org/general-services/animal-care>, in hopes that she may have been picked up.

And there she was on page eight of the Web site! The page announced: "You will find me in kennel CA16. I am a female

tortie Domestic Short-hair. I have been at the shelter since Dec 04, 2009. ID#A328312."

Worried about the previous freezing nights outdoors and then if medication became delayed a week late, our concerned vets at Mueller Pet Medical Center (in Land Park)

also left a phone message at the shelter. The best solution was to try to deliver the medication to the locked up shelter on Front Street. Once there, I spotted a shadow through the window and shouted until they rolled up the metal gate. Word-for-word, the animal officer listened to my pleas – to the point of asking me inside to identify my missing cat and applying the medication myself. What helped was my folder with Bravada's missing cat poster, her vet's record, and the pharmacy prescription. As the officer was taking a photo of my tearful goodbye with Bravada back inside kennel CA 16, she said, "Stay here. Let me talk to my boss." Upon returning to the kennel, she smiled, "Have an early Christmas present. Your cat can go home with you, NOW."

During the week as Bravada settled down back at home, I called the shelter's number to thank them. Who answers the "311" call – it's Brandon again! He remembered all the earlier frantic calls from us and the vet in search for the lost cat, and this time offered to track down the name of the kind officer working that Sunday, Dec. 6: Kim.

The last person missing in this puzzle is the alert neighbor who spotted Bravada and called the animal shelter for help. That is the only clue as to who this person may be. Bravada was found on Hidden Lake Circle. Maybe he/she will recognize our cat from the photo. When brought into the shelter, Bravada was too weak to even hold up her own head in the mug shot. After a comprehensive overnight stay at the vet's, she was ready to leap toward the poinsettias.

We want to say thank you to all for giving us the best Christmas present: our family cat.

Happy holidays to all cats and their loving families.



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## Changing face of Crocker

# Spacious Crocker Art Museum expansion slated to open its doors in 10 months

By SUSAN LAIRD  
Land Park News Writer  
susan@valcomnews.com

It is said that great cities have great museums. If that is so, one might also postulate that great communities have great museums. The Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, as the first art museum established in the Western U.S., is greater than the sum of its parts. It is both a great city museum and a great regional museum.

A \$100 million expansion project, slated for completion next October, will permanently establish the Crocker as a museum of national significance for generations to come. A brilliantly conceived "classic contemporary" structure by the late architect Charles Gwathmey, the expansion will improve visitor amenities, enhance museum operations and provide new resources for collections care. The project also ensures that the Crocker Art Museum, founded in 1885, will enjoy another 125 years of inspiration and education.

The numbers are impressive. The new Crocker expansion adds some 125,000 square feet to the existing museum. The structure will contain: 8,200 square feet of glass, in the form of windows that feature views that highlight the beauty of the original Crocker and the natural beauty of Sacramento's many trees. The exterior will be covered by 4,000 aluminum panels and 4,500 zinc panels. Underlying it all at the foundation, some 320 auger-cast piles were driven 60 feet deep to support the three-story structure.

Spacious new galleries already have 15 skylights specially designed to let in natural light – but without its destructive effects.

There is 12,000 square feet of exhibition space to display works of art.

"Not only will we have the ability to host some of the larger traveling art exhibits, we will be able to display some of the more massive works of art that were originally intended for display in grand homes or castles," said Kathleen Richards, marketing communications coordinator for the Crocker. "These pieces can be very tall. The new expansion has spaces where these art works will be able to be seen and appreciated."

A 7,000-square-foot open air courtyard at the new museum entrance will allow the Crocker

er to host more than 1,200 people at outdoor events. The design of the courtyard allows visitors to enjoy and appreciate the architectural styles of both structures. A beautiful two-story atrium will have the capability of seating 400 for dinners. There is a 250-seat auditorium for presentations and educational events. There is handicapped access throughout. And the new facilities will be available for special events, making Sacramento now capable of hosting some national cultural events.

"All of us at the Crocker are very excited to serve our community in ways that literally weren't possible before and to be an even more integral part of civic life in Sacramento and the region," said Lial Jones, museum director.

"This is an exhilarating time for the city of Sacramento, and the Crocker Art Museum's expansion exemplifies the changes taking place," said Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson. "The museum is vital to the region's cultural and economic development, and the new Crocker is an important icon for Sacramento's ongoing emergence as a cultural destination and a world-class city."

### The new Crocker

There will be more to the Crocker's expansion than the 14,000 cubic yards of concrete and 1,400 tons of steel that make up its infrastructure.

"This will be one of the largest venues in Sacramento, if not the largest," Richards said. "Hospitals and museums are the most expensive structures to build, due to the massive amount of infrastructure that is required. The building has to be able to withstand having many people visit it every day, year after year. The walls have to be able to bear the weight of heavy artwork. There has to be climate control and light control to preserve the art, and so on."

Visitors will be able to walk up to windows on the first floor that look into the conservation area. It will be an opportunity for everyone, from school children to adults, to learn about the science of preserving art.

"Conservation is a very interesting field," Richards said. "You have to have a master's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in art. The conservation center will enable us to provide better collections care and restoration, as well as education."



Renderings courtesy of the Crocker Art Museum  
A classic contemporary expansion of the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento will be completed in October of 2010.

The museum staff will have something they have never had before: ample modern office space. Located on the third floor, the architect's design provides each worker with desk space and personal space, while opening the larger space to the eye.

The opening of the new facility is planned for Oct. 10. The Crocker plans a series of special exhibitions that will feature highlights of the museum's permanent collection. Many pieces have never been displayed to the public before.

The Crocker's expansion is supported by a \$100 million capital campaign. More than \$90 million has been raised to date. The campaign has received generous donations of \$1 million or more. The new wing of the museum will be named the Teel Family Pavilion in recognition of a lead gift from the Joyce and Jim Teel Family Foundation. Building on this success, the museum is launching a broad-based fundraising and member campaign.

### Crocker Art

The Crocker Art Museum is located at 216 O Street in downtown Sacramento. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 65 and better, \$3 for students with a valid ID and free for children ages six and under. Thanks to a generous grant from Bank of America, admission is free on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with extended hours on first and third Thursdays until 9 p.m.

For more information about the Crocker, call (916) 808-7000 or visit [www.crockerartmuseum.org](http://www.crockerartmuseum.org).

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# Local Elks Lodge No. 6 has extensive history in Sacramento

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Land Park News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

The Sacramento Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 6 is undoubtedly an organization that is woven into the fabric of the Pocket community. But those who are unfamiliar with this local organization prior to its existence just south of Land Park in the Pocket are unaware that the local Elks have a much richer history.

Although Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 established a noteworthy history at its current home at 6446 Riverside Blvd., downtown Sacramento was home to the lodge for the majority of its existence.

The lodge, which is now one of more than 2,000 lodges that make up one of the largest and most active fraternal organizations in the world, is undeniably one of the capital city's oldest organizations.

## Lodging in Sacramento

Founded in the capital city in 1877, the lodge initially met in downtown Sacramento and operated for about two years before the charter was rescinded for what the lodge refers to as "what can be inferred to as prostitution."

The lodge was re-chartered as Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 328 on Dec. 21, 1895 with a variety of members, including some of the community's most prominent individuals.

The official establishment of the re-chartered lodge was celebrated in the dining room of the prominent Golden Eagle Hotel at 627 K St.

Members of the local Elks lodge, which regained its original charter number in 1908, met in various places during the lodge's early years, including the site of its first gathering as Lodge No. 328 at Forsters' Hall at 716 I St. and at the Ruhstaller building, which still stands at 902 J St., across from Cesar Chavez Plaza.

The first officers of the re-chartered lodge were installed in April 1896 and included: J.N. Larkin, exalted ruler, Charles N. Post, esteemed leading knight, J.A. Nelson, esteemed loyal knight, and G.B.N. Clow, esteemed lecturing knight.

In their everyday lives, Larkin worked as a police court clerk and owned the Sunday Leader newspaper at 305 J St., Post was the city's justice of peace and an attorney at law at 614 I St., Nelson was

a laundryman at American Laundry at 19th and I streets and Clow was a physician at 531 K St.

At the time of the installation of new officers in April 1897, membership of the lodge had reached 137.

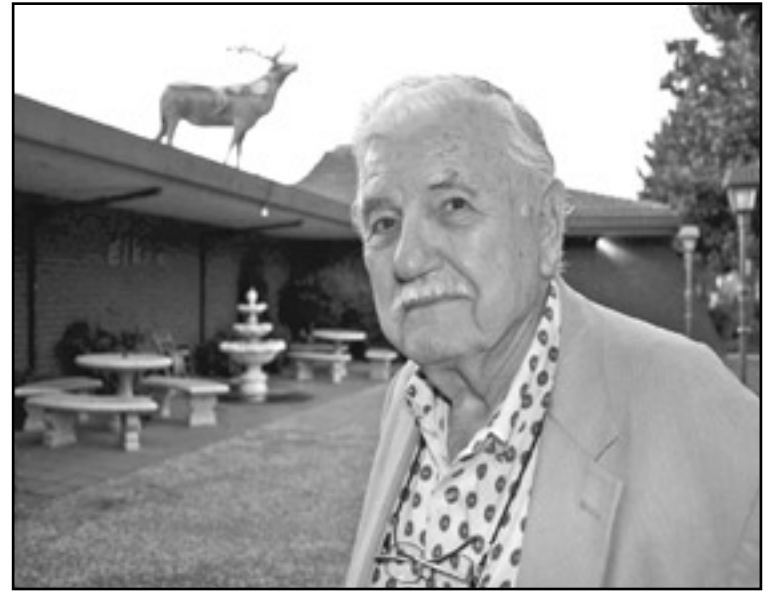
It was also in this year that the lodge made its first known visit to San Francisco Lodge No. 3, which entertained its Sacramento visitors.

The earliest known fraternal visit by an Elks lodge to Sacramento occurred on Oct. 17, 1898 when Stockton Lodge No. 218 was welcomed to the capital city by the Sacramento lodge.

Among the popular events of the Sacramento lodge during its earliest years was its minstrel shows, including its "Monster Minstrel Jubilee," which was held on May 2, 1898 at the Metropolitan Theater on K Street, between 4th and 5th streets.

## Elks find a home

After more than a decade of meeting at various sites, the Sacramento Elks opened their first "permanent" building at 824 J St. on July 3, 1906. The new temple's opening was celebrated with a public gathering, which was



Land Park News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Anthony M. Muljat, treasurer of Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, has the longest tenure of any Sacramento Elks member, having joined the lodge 65 years ago.

attended by many prominent people of the city.

The 1923 book, History of Sacramento County, included the following report: "The Elks have a strong lodge in Sacramento with an elegantly equipped home on J Street, between 8th and 9th (streets). Recently the hall was remodeled at a considerable expense. The lodge is in very prosperous condition."

The report, however, was based on information that was outdated by about six years.

By 1922, due to the extreme growth of the local Elks membership and the inadequacies of the then-current building, an organization, called the Sacramento Elks Hall Association, was founded to construct a new Elks temple in Sacramento.

As a result of the association's efforts, a new, 226-foot-tall, brick and steel Elks temple was constructed at the northeast corner of 11th and J streets and dedicated as the new home of Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 on June 22, 1926.

The 14-floor building, which was once recognized as the city's tallest structure, was not only a home for the Elks, but it also included about 100 hotel rooms, storefront spaces on the ground floor and a restaurant on the 14th floor.

In 1968, the 13th floor of the building became home to the newly created radio sta-

tion, KZAP, which debuted on the FM dial as a free form station playing extremely vast offerings of music.

Additionally, the building once offered such amenities as a swimming pool and a steam room in the basement, an exercise room on the ground floor, a ballroom and main dining room on the second floor, a lodge room and reading room on the third floor and meeting, billiards and game rooms on the fourth floor.

Although many locals are familiar with McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant's existence on the ground floor of the building, many longtime residents of the area remember that the building once featured an entirely different restaurant, which was known as the Top of the Town.

The business, thus named for its location on the building's top floor, was known for its panoramic view of the city, its cocktail lounge and its overall attractive aesthetics and atmosphere.

Speaking about the grandness of the 11th and J Street Elks temple in 1926, Walter J. Hicks, exalted ruler of the Sacramento Elks Lodge, said, "I am not proud because we builded higher, not proud because we builded bigger, but proud because we have builded a temple to Elkdome in the city of Sacramen-



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# Elks: 'It's very rewarding to be an Elk and help the kids'

Continued from page 6

to, which already is becoming the topic of conversation wherever Elks congregate and which before long will be instrumental in placing the name of Sacramento on the lips of nearly every Elk throughout the nation."

## Off to Riverside Boulevard

Due to a decrease in membership during the 1950s and 1960s, the local Elks lodge failed to produce funds for upgrades required by the city's building department.

The Elks consequently sold the building in 1972 to local developer Buzz Oates, who soon afterward joined in a business partnership with Waltz Investment, Richard Benvenuti, William Cook and Dean Unger.

Following this group's ownership, the building underwent a variety of ownerships, as it fell in and out of escrow.

This pattern continued until May 2003, when current owners Steve and Mike Ayers committed to having the building renovated through the guidance of Peter B. Dannenfels II of Architectural Arts.

Having sold the 11th and J streets building, Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 began a new chapter in its history in the early 1970s, when it moved into its current home on Riverside Boulevard.

Although the Riverside Boulevard building does not have the grandiose exterior aesthetics of the 11th and J streets building, this Pocket area building, which encompasses about an acre of property, is nonetheless a high quality building with various amenities.

The main feature of the building is its combined rooms, which include the Riverside Room, the Florin Room and the Lodge Room. These rooms can also be opened up for use as one large room.

Available for rentals, the combined rooms also include a 50-foot-by-50-foot hardwood dance floor and a 46-foot by 16-foot stage.

Available to all members is a fitness center, which includes an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, racquet-

ball and handball courts and a weight room.

Other amenities include a library and meeting room, a lounge with a full bar and small dance floor, a patio and barbecue area, a kitchen and a game room.

## Strength of the Elks

Local residents express a variety of reasons why they enjoy being Elks members.

South Land Park resident Rudy Toralez said that being an Elk is something very fulfilling.

"The Elks is based on the benevolent people on Earth and they're giving and they have a lot of charities and as a (6th grade) schoolteacher, I have the same mantra as the Elks," Toralez said. "It's the perfect fit. I get involved with the scholarship program for youth and whichever other programs they need me to volunteer."

Kevin Soulis, a 1969 graduate of Christian Brothers High School and the Elks number one handball player for the past 30 years, said that he appreciates the opportunity that the lodge provides him with to play a sport that offers so many personal fitness advantages.

"You have to be athletic, you've got to be smart and

you've got to be agile (to compete well at handball)," Soulis said. "It's a tremendous game."

The lodge's event coordinator, Pocket resident Marilyn Facha, said that she appreciates that as of about 15 years ago ladies were given the rights, via a historic vote, to become members of the lodge.

"It's very rewarding to be an Elk and help the kids and help the disabled," Facha said. "You're working for charities and Boy Scouts and veterans. It's very satisfying to do our activities and have everything come out well and it's just nice to support good causes."

Currently, the local Elks lodge is led by 16 officers, including Richard Cherry, exalted ruler, Ronald Brusato, esteemed leading knight, Lona Taggart, esteemed loyal knight, and Darnell Lawrence, esteemed lecturing knight.

Additionally, Anthony M. Muljat serves as treasurer and the longest tenured member of the lodge, having joined the lodge 65 years ago.

Cherry said that Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 is a great lodge to be a member of due to its many social benefits and service oriented projects.



Land Park News Photo/Lance Armstrong

The 83-year-old Elks Building at 11th and J streets in downtown Sacramento stands as one of the city's most prominent landmarks.

"It is an organization that is social in nature, it's charitable and it's a great way to become involved in our community and other communities," Cherry said.

For additional information regarding Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, including how to become a member, call (916) 422-6666.



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The season of giving

# The quality of mercy: The gift that gives back

By **SUSAN LAIRD**  
Land Park News Writer  
susan@valcomnews.com

For the past several weeks, the shopping mall sidewalks and parking lots have been busy. Shoppers rushed home with their treasures. After Christmas, they will be bustling again – with returns and exchanges. It's the nature of the season.

It is not fair to brand all holiday shoppers as self-centered or fickle, because clearly they are not. Most are shopping for others, and contributing mightily to an anemic economy that needs consumers.

Another staple of the season is charitable giving. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, many non-profits have made their holiday deadlines. Barely, in some cases.

William Shakespeare wrestled with the issues of self-interest and love in "The Merchant of Venice." In Act 4, Scene 1, the character of Portia said that it all boiled down to the issue of mercy. But what is mercy? Why should one care? Again, to quote Shakespeare:

*The quality of mercy is not strain'd,  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from  
heaven*

*Upon the place beneath. It is twice  
blest:*

*It blesseth him that gives and him that  
takes.*

*'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it be-  
comes*

*The throned monarch better than his  
crown;*

*His sceptre shows the force of tempo-  
ral power,*

*The attribute to awe and majesty,  
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear  
of kings;*

*But mercy is above this sceptred sway,  
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,  
It is an attribute to God himself;*

*And earthly power doth then show lik-  
est God's,*

*When mercy seasons justice.*

In other words, giving to others is good for both parties – it benefits the giver as much as the recipient. It is fair, as the Almighty is fair. Giving is good for the soul.

Turning from thoughts celestial to the Internal Revenue Service, then... Even the IRS knows that when charities and non-profits are helped, the entire community benefits. 'Tis the

*The key is to search  
your heart, and then  
give something back.  
It's good for the spirit.*

season of year-end giving, and charitable deductions are good for the bottom line at tax time.

### Taxes and timing

To help taxpayers plan their holiday-season and year-end giving, the IRS offers the following additional reminders:

- Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2009 count for 2009. This is true even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2010. Also, checks count for 2009 as long as they are mailed in 2009 and clear, shortly thereafter.

- Check that the organization is qualified. Only donations to qualified organizations are tax-deductible. IRS Publication 78, available online and at many public libraries, lists most or-



Photo courtesy

A staple of the season is charitable giving. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, many non-profits have made their holiday deadlines. Barely, in some cases.

ganizations that are qualified to receive deductible contributions. The searchable online version can be found at IRS.gov

See Charity, page 9

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# Charity: There are many worthy organizations

Continued from page 8

under Search for Charities. In addition, churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and government agencies are eligible to receive deductible donations, even if they are not listed in Publication 78.

• For individuals, only taxpayers who itemize their deductions on Form 1040 Schedule A can claim deductions for charitable contributions. This deduction is not available to individuals who choose the standard deduction, including anyone who files a short form (Form 1040A or 1040EZ). A taxpayer will have a tax savings only if the total itemized deductions (mortgage interest, charitable contributions, state and local taxes, etc.) exceed the standard deduction. Use the 2009 Form 1040 Schedule A to determine whether itemizing is better than claiming the standard deduction.

• For all donations of property, including clothing and household items, get from the charity, if possible, a receipt that includes the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and a reasonably-detailed description of the donated property. If a donation is left at a charity's unattended drop site, keep a written record of the donation that includes this information, as well as the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation and the method used to determine that value. Additional rules apply for a contribution of \$250 or more.

• The deduction for a motor vehicle, boat or airplane donated to charity is usually limited to the gross proceeds from its sale. This rule applies if the claimed value is more than \$500. Form 1098-C, or a similar statement, must be provided to the donor by the organization and attached to the donor's tax return.

• If the amount of a taxpayer's deduction for all noncash contributions is over \$500, a properly-completed Form 8283 must be submitted with the tax return.

## Food for thought

Therefore, when weighing the temporal and eternal balances in your gift giving plans, consider: what non-profit groups help to feed the hungry, clothe those in



'Tis the season for giving.

need, comfort the sick and dying, help in disasters, provide cultural and educational opportunities to the community, etc.

There are many worthy organizations in the community that are all in need of support by year's end. These include: the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Mercy Hospital of Sacramento, the UC Davis Health System, the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Sacramento, the Salvation Army, the Sacramento Hospice Consortium, the Red Cross, the Sacramento Ballet, Sacramento Opera, the Crocker Art Museum, the California History Museum, the California Railroad Museum and so many others.

## Giving back

The key is to search your heart, and then give something back. It's good for the spirit. As the Bard himself put it:

...Consider this,  
That in the course of justice none of us  
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;  
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render  
The deeds of mercy.

*Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2009 count for 2009. This is true even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2010. Also, checks count for 2009 as long as they are mailed in 2009 and clear, shortly thereafter.*

You and your teen

# Surviving the holidays



By STEVE DEBENEDETTI-EMANUEL  
Land Park News Family Columnist  
steve@rivercitycounseling.com

Normally this space is reserved for advice for parents with teens; this week will be different. I'm speaking to adults who plan to spend the holidays with their parents and siblings and giving tips to help them survive and enjoy the holidays.

Recently, my client "Dave" has been worried about his yearly visit to Southern California. He and his wife and kids are spending Christmas with his parents and siblings and staying for a few days afterwards.

As Dave is a chef, the unspoken expectation is that he's going to prepare a lavish feast. And for the last eight years, he has. While others relax, he spends the entire day cooking, getting little help from anyone but his mother and wife. By the time the celebration starts, he's resentful, exhausted and in no mood to celebrate.

And others fulfill their roles. His brother socializes, doesn't even offer to help, and drinks too much. His sister snaps at everyone and leaves in a huff. His father tells loud, inappropriate jokes that make others uncomfortable.

Dave wants things to be different this year. He has already told his parents that he's taking the year off from cooking. He has suggested either a potluck or going to a restaurant. He has also made plans to take his wife and kids to Disneyland for a couple of days. He then plans to return to his parents' house for their last night before heading home.

Just as Dave is trying a new strategy this year, each of us has to figure out what to do differently, to increase the chance of enjoying the holidays with our families. Here are some thoughts to keep in mind as you prepare to go.

It's OK to break lifelong patterns of behavior. There's nothing like time spent with family for you to suddenly find yourself talking and acting like you did when you were a teenager living at home. When you realize you're doing this, gently remind yourself that you are now an adult, and as long as you aren't rude or inconsiderate, you are free to behave however you want.

Be aware that your siblings and parents are also likely to repeat their lifelong patterns. The brother who has always said mean things in order to knock you down will probably try to do the same this year. Remind yourself not to take his bait. Instead, take a deep breath and respond to him as calmly and kindly as possible. Eventually, he'll lose interest and pester others.

Despite the inevitable pressure to be together for EVERY MINUTE of your visit, take breaks from your family. Be it spending an evening with a friend, heading away overnight, or just taking a walk around the block after dinner, if you spend some time away from your family you're more likely to enjoy your time with them.

Regardless of what you plan to do differently, be aware that you will probably feel the pressure to act like you always have. If you stick to your guns and do what makes you (and your spouse and children) happy, rather than giving in and feeling badly afterwards, it's likely that you'll leave feeling satisfied and (almost) ready for next year.

*Steve DeBenedetti-Emanuel is a licensed marriage and family therapist based in the Sacramento area. Steve's columns appear periodically in the Valley Community Newspapers. Ask Steve your questions – e-mail him at [steve@rivercitycounseling.com](mailto:steve@rivercitycounseling.com).*

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# Pocket-area woman pilot returns WWII aircraft to airfield 65 years later

Special to The Land Park News  
Story courtesy Wild-Bills.com

In March of 1944, a P-17 Stearman biplane came to Eagle Field, near Dos Palos, and was stricken from U.S. Army Air Force records in June 1945 at the end of the war. The plane disappeared from the official records and went missing from all documents relating to its whereabouts.

This past summer, this plane flew out of a cloudy history and back home to Eagle Field.

Ultimately, the plane came into the hands of former Pocket-area resident (and pilot) Nancy Ginesi-

Hill in 2008. It is particularly interesting that Ginesi-Hill is the current owner of this aircraft, as she lived and worked at Eagle Field for several years. Now she owns an aircraft that was once attached to the famed airfield.

"I have been coming to Eagle Field for many years, and I have always wanted to own and fly a Stearman," says Ginesi-Hill, "But never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever own one that had been stationed at this particular field. When I bought the aircraft in Santa Rosa from Jacques Gandolfo, I had no idea it had been at Eagle Field. But



Photo courtesy Wild-Bills.com

Ultimately, this P-17 Stearman biplane came into the hands of former Pocket-area resident (and pilot) Nancy Ginesi-Hill in 2008.

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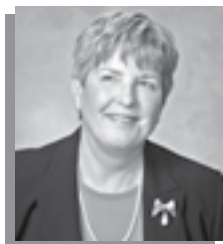
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once I got it, and started going through the log books, I found these entries indicating it had been there."

Although the plane is normally housed in a hanger in Lincoln, Ginesi-Hill felt a flight to the plane's former home field would reconnect the plane – and its pilot – to a part of history that defined U.S. aircraft development and solidified a woman's role in the wild blue yonder.

### Connecting to history

During World War II, women pilots who were part of the Women's Army Service Pilots, or WASP, moved aircraft from the factories and depots to the active bases. These young women, first organized by Jackie Cochran, flew all types of aircraft, in all kinds of weather. With all of the qualified men at war, Cochran, a race pilot, proposed that women be taught to fly the trainers, fighters, bombers and transports, and it proved

very successful. Many of the WASP have been and are currently members of the Ninety-Nines International group of Women Pilots. As a member of the group, Ginesi-Hill has had the fortune of meeting some of them.

Ginesi-Hill joined the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the Ninety-Nines International group of Women Pilots 20 years ago. She is vice chairman of the chapter and she adds that the group is very active in promoting aviation in young and old alike and is a big part of the FAA Safety Team at which Ginesi-Hill is a representative. She also attends air shows with her Stearman P-T 17, organizes and volunteers at various shows throughout the year.

Ginesi-Hill is also on the board for the Lincoln Regional Aviation Association, vice president of the Grey Eagles and a member of the P-38 Fork Tail Devils.

"Sitting there listening to WWII aces and pilot stories I could do all day long," said Ginesi-Hill. "I love the history of our men and women of the military and I proudly fly my Stearman in their honor."

At one time, Ginesi-Hill seriously considered starting a military style flight school in partnership with Joe Davis, owner of Eagle Field. The plan was to teach students using "tail draggers," which many say is the "only" way to learn to fly.

### Bringing the Stearman home

Ginesi-Hill brought the Stearman back to Eagle Field June 12 for the first time in 65 years. She departed Lincoln Airport at 11:00 a.m. and arrived just in time for the big dinner, dance and Fly In. The plane, its pilot and the flight were all welcomed eagerly by the airfield, as one of their own had come home.

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# New arrival bring excitement to the Sacramento Zoo

Special to The Land Park News

The Sacramento Zoo recently welcomed Makan to the Sumatran orangutan

group. Makan is 6 years old and was born at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. Makan arrived in Sacramento in Septem-

ber and following his quarantine in the veterinary hospital, he was introduced to the two female orangutans. The Sacramento Zoo, the Chey-

enne Mountain Zoo and the Orangutan Species Survival Plan committee have been planning Makan's move for about a year.

In September, CMZ staff began the drive from Colorado to California with Makan safely tucked away in a large crate. When he arrived, he was moved into our Zoo's hospital quarantine area where he was monitored for any illnesses that could potentially be transmitted to resident animals. After he received a clean bill of health from the veterinarian, the young orangutan moved up to the Ape House to begin introductions to the exhibit and the resident orangutans.

Makan joined the Zoo's two older females: Cheli is 37 years old and Ginger, at 54 years old, is the oldest Sumatran orangutan in a U.S. zoo. Right now, Makan looks like the females and weighs only 65 lbs. In a few years, he will go through a massive growth spurt, developing large amounts of muscle, gaining close to 200 pounds, getting large round cheek flanges, and growing long hair with a mustache and



Photo courtesy the Sacramento Zoo  
Right now, the Sacramento Zoo's new orangutan Makan looks like the females and weighs only 65 lbs. In a few years, he will go through a massive growth spurt,

beard. It will be interesting to see Makan on exhibit interacting with the girls, but more interesting to the keepers is how the girls will interact with him! It has been a few decades for both of the females since they have lived with such a young male. He was introduced to the girls in the quiet night quarters away from distracting crowds. When he is on exhibit with Ginger and Cheli, he experiences new surroundings; Makan had never seen zebra or bongos, which are viewable from his new home.

For information about the Sacramento Zoo, call (916) 808-5888 or visit [saczo.com](http://saczo.com).

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Land Park News Photo/Ryan Rose  
 Pictured at the lunch honoring Raynia Kinniston: (On the left, from front to back) Vicki Diepenbrock, Sister Brigit McCarthy (president Mercy Foundation), Christine Anderson and (not visible) Pam Gartan; (On the right, from front to back) Dawn Suits, Sister Claire, Raynia Kinniston, Holly Forquer and Barbara Schor. (Inset: Raynia Kinniston)

## Faces and places

# Land Park's Raynia Kinniston honored at special Casa Garden luncheon

On Dec. 15, Land Park resident Raynia Kinniston, 95, hosted a luncheon at the Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., for seven sisters of Mercy from East Sacramento's Mercy Hospital as well as other staff and volunteers. She was celebrating being the first recipient of Shawn Anderson's "Extra Mile America Award."

Anderson bicycled from San Francisco to Boston looking for ordinary people doing incredible things. Two-hundred people were interviewed and 10 were awarded with \$1,000 to reward their inspirational stories.

Kinniston has donated her award to the Mercy Hospital Foundation. She has been volunteering at the hospital since 1960.

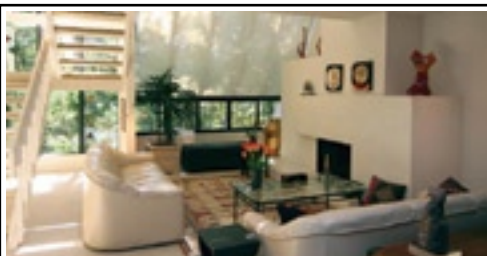
Some of the money Kinniston received was used by her to host the luncheon. According to Kinniston, it was very important to her that the seven Catholic sisters that work at Mercy Hospital were celebrated

and recognized with a nice meal.

Anderson is currently writing a book about his tour and the people he met. There will be a book signing at Mercy Hospital in Febru-

ary. For more information, e-mail Anderson at shawn@shawnanderson.com.

Information provided by Vicki Diepenbrock. Photos by Ryan Rose.



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Out and about

# From dreams to reality: How one local artist brings his world to ours

By **BENN HODAPP**  
Land Park News Writer  
benn@valcomnews.com

"I like to think that I'm walking down a dream path, taking pictures of what I see."

That is how local artist Mark Niemeyer describes his creations. His ability to create these dreamlike scenarios has just always been there, he said.

"My interest in art wasn't taught," he said. "It just poured out of me."

Niemeyer, a native of Nebraska, moved to northern California 25 years ago. "Friends told me that my art was strange enough to sell in California," he chuckled.

His first stop was Marysville and then Woodland. He realized quickly that if he was going to make a dent in the art world that he needed to make his way to Sacramento. Within a month of moving here, he had some works in a gallery.

Many of his paintings are surrealistic, taking real-life images and warping them in some way.

"I'm proud that I don't get stuck on one form," he said. "I'm doing a series of birds right now and when I'm done with that I'll move on to something else."



Photo courtesy Mark Niemeyer

Artist Mark Niemeyer, a native of Nebraska, moved to northern California 25 years ago.

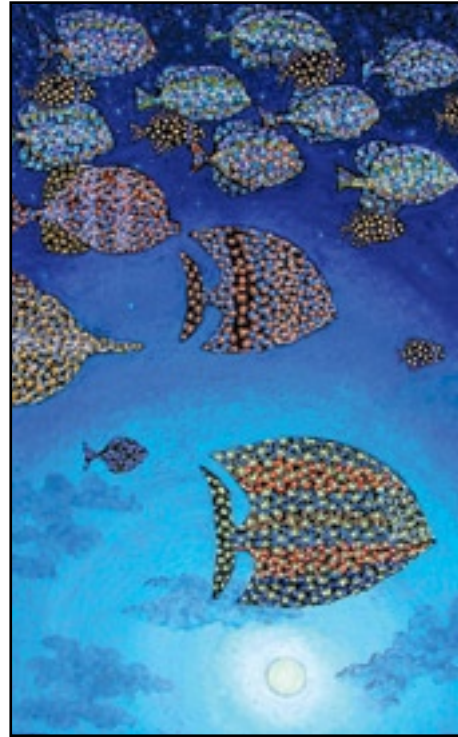


Photo courtesy Mark Niemeyer

This piece is part of Mark Niemeyer's Fishboy and Flowergirl series.



Photo courtesy Mark Niemeyer

This piece is Mark Niemeyer's "Hiding behind his music."

Along with his many works that include people and animals, Niemeyer has developed a fascination with parts of California that Nebraska simply didn't have to offer.

"Being in Nebraska you don't really see any rocks," he said.

This created his motivation to start doing some landscape paintings of rock formations in the area. Also not

present in Nebraska is a certain type of tree.

"I did a series of paintings called 'Midtown Palms' and ended up with about 10 or 12 of them," he said.

See Artist, page 17

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# Artist: 'I always try to put some humor in my art, especially in the titles'

Continued from page 16

"Those sold pretty well, actually. I sold half of them."

Nearly all of his paintings are done using oil pastels, which he refers to as "adult crayons." He discovered them nearly 30 years ago and he remains an avid user.

## Prominently displayed

Niemeyer's works can be seen all over the Sacramento area. He has pieces in The Supper Club on Del Paso Boulevard; Crepeville at 18th and L streets; Burgers and Brew at 15th and R streets; and Matteo's at Arden Way and Fair Oaks Boulevard.

As far as how he was able to get his art featured at these locations, he said he was largely in the right place at the right time.

Niemeyer works at The Supper Club as a cook. He describes himself as "a chopping and cutting machine" and he assists the chefs in preparation for their creations. The owners, Matt and Yvette Woolston, took notice of his art and decided to put some of his work up. At first Niemyer thought they put them up just to be nice, but with the opening of Matteo's in Carmichael, he knew that they really enjoyed his work.

"Yvette asked me if I could do three flower paintings for the opening of Matteo's," he said. "The problem was that it was opening in three weeks."

The 15 feet of flowers that adorn the walls at Matteo's is one of his proudest works.

"I didn't have time to go back and measure out what I wanted to do, I just had to do it and I think it turned out really well."

The title of the paintings is "Bee's Dream." He described it as what a bee would dream about, a vast expanse of flowers.

Conversely, there is also a painting of a rooster and hen in the restaurant entitled "Bee's Nightmare."

"I always try to put some humor in my art, especially in the titles," he said.

The pieces that hang in Crepeville and Burgers and Brew can be purchased. Each has a card accompanying the piece with his number on it.

"There are plenty of ways to get a hold of me if you need to," he said.

Most of his pieces range in price from \$400-\$700.

He is also featured at the new Maiya Gallery at 2220 J St. As of now, he has four pieces hanging inside and he has been penciled in to be a featured artist sometime in 2010. Some of his newest creations include a series of warped faces. One of the most striking is a piece titled "Yellow Nose Man."

"I like the human face," he said. "People are instantly drawn in by the eyes. 'Yellow Nose Man' was one of the first times I cut down the face into sections using different colors."

To find out more about Niemyer's work, e-mail him at elzoharm@att.net or see some of his pieces at www.myspace.com/markharmart. Or, for a live encounter, perhaps just look up the next time you're out to eat. You might just find yourself staring into a dream.



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A man committed to Christmas charity

# Rodney Stanhope's mission for military families

By CELIA GREEN  
Land Park News Writer  
reporter@valcomnews.com

The second week of December brought freezing temperatures to Sacramento. And while most of us happily cuddled in our warm homes,

Rodney Stanhope chose to live in a shed in the parking lot of the Market Square Shopping Center on Arden Avenue. His reason was to help the families of deployed military members.

"This is 'Operation Christmas for the Troops VI.' It'll

be bigger, badder and bolder than previous years," said Stanhope while he was living on site. "I'll be living here for 12 days of Christmas, and so will Santa (Rick Sihner). We're here to collect toys and cash to help our military families have the best Christmas season possible."

Stanhope and Sihner moved into their holiday digs on Thursday, Dec. 10, and left at noon on Dec. 22.

"This year we've constructed a compound of three Tuff Sheds, one for me, one for Rick, and (one) to store collected toys. We couldn't do this without the help of our awesome sponsors: Tuff Shed dropped off the sheds, Lowe's donated the generator and floodlights, Home Depot gave us materials for Santa's sleigh, and the Cheesecake Factory is providing us with dinner (and an occasional cheesecake for volunteers), and



Land Park news Photo/Celia Green  
Rodney Stanhope chose to live in a shed in the parking lot of the Market Square Shopping Center on Arden Avenue. His reason was to help the families of deployed military members.

we have the full support of the National Guard, who have helped loading and delivering toys. This is local people helping local people, because the toys donated here help the military families in Northern California," said Stanhope.

## Making a difference for military families

"This is the sixth year I've done this, but we decided this year to have Sihner live here, too, since he was driving here every day from Oroville. I started doing this, collecting toys and money in 2002, when my best friend was deployed. My friend had been a very successful real estate agent, and the deployment caused a huge cut in pay, and his family needed assistance. That year I helped out his family. The following year I worked with a veteran's group helping out military families. The toys are for the kids and the cash is used to buy toys that don't get donated, or for gift cards from grocery stores for the moms."

In 2006, Stanhope joined forces with Yellow Ribbon America, a national grassroots organization sharing Stanhope's goals.

"It breaks my heart - this year, for the first time, we've had requests for diapers, formula and baby food, and even children's clothing. So some of the cash is being spent on items such as those," he said.

As of Sunday, Dec. 20, Day 11, Operation Christmas had already collected and distributed more than 10,000 toys and raised \$4,500, with Monday and part of Tuesday still to go.

Continued on page 19



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Land Park News Photo/Celia Green

As of Sunday, Dec. 20, Day 11, Operation Christmas had already collected and distributed more than 10,000 toys and raised \$4,500.

Stanhope said any toys not delivered this year will be stored at Mather Field and used in next year's drive.

"It's been great having Rick here with me this year. Rick wears the Santa suit, and we have hours when kids can have their pictures taken. There's no charge for the pictures. We use a digital camera and I either print the photos right here, or we e-mail the photos to the parents. And Claire (Sihner, Rick's wife) has been our toy maven. She coordinates what toys are needed for which pick-up, and runs to the stores to buy what hasn't been donated."

#### Commitment and honor

While very successful, the experience was not without turmoil; the compound's generator was stolen in the early hours of Day 4.

"I was honestly thinking about shutting this down, but the people of this area are amazing," Stanhope said, adding that someone donated another generator.

If anyone would like to help with next year's toy drive, Rodney Stanhope is on Facebook or can be contacted through Yellow Ribbon America.



Land Park News Photo/Celia Green  
Volunteer Rick Sihner wears a Santa Claus suit and holds hours when kids can have their pictures taken. There's no charge for the pictures.

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

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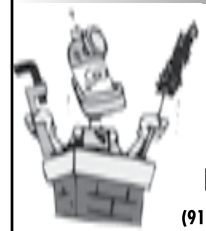
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# An end of an era for longtime family-owned Compton's Market

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Land Park News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

Sacramento's Dave and Mike Compton have sold the last of their family's chain of locally-owned grocery stores, known as Compton's Markets.

The final link in this chain, the East Sacramento store at 4055 McKinley Blvd., will officially change hands during the first or second week of December.

But fortunately for the neighborhood, the store's new owners, Pam and Sunil Hans, have vowed to maintain the store's name, employees and overall offerings that have made this store a community treasure.

Pam, Dave said, will head the operations of the store, while Sunil will maintain his high level position with the 7UP Bottling Co.

Although many customers are disappointed with the sale of the business, Dave assures the public that very few notable changes will be made to the store.

Additionally, Dave, 60, said that his brother, who is 57, plans to assist the new owners as an advisor in helping them understand what type of operations work best in this neighborhood store.

### Building a business

The McKinley Boulevard store, which opened in about 1973, was once among eight Compton Market's in the

Sacramento area. The first of these markets – the 2703 24th St. store, which is now known as the Curtis Park Market – opened in 1957.

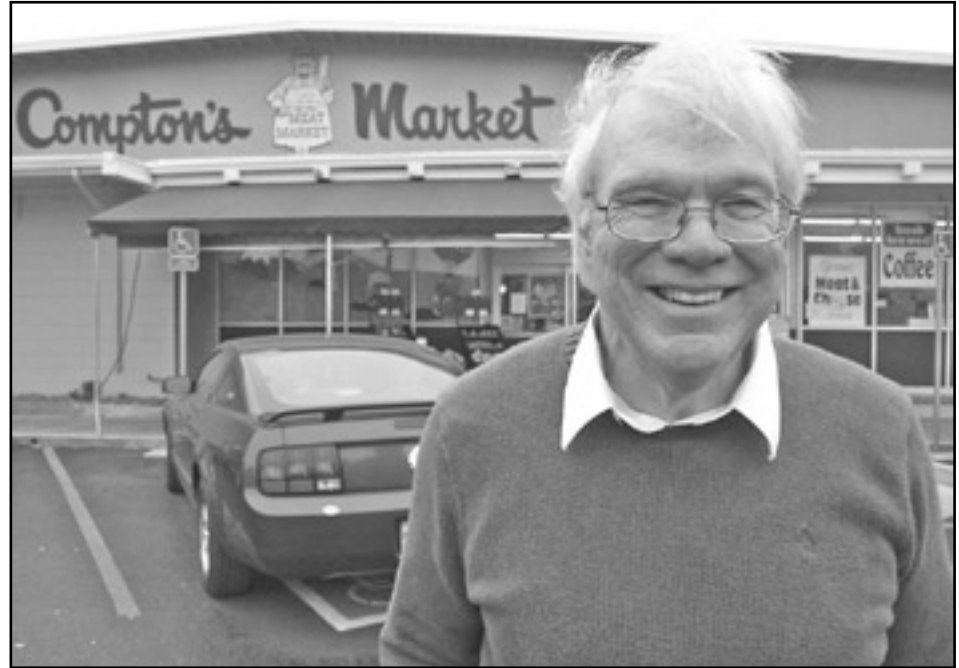
The stores were originally owned and operated by Dave and Mike's father, Bill Compton, and their uncles, Loy and Lou Compton.

Bill, who passed away a little more than a year ago and was the last of the surviving original owners of the markets, gifted his sons the 24th Street and McKinley Boulevard stores upon his retirement.

Dave recently met with the East Sacramento News to discuss the sale of the East Sacramento store, as well as the history of his family's longtime grocery venture in the capital city.

Sitting behind his desk, wearing a blue Polo sweater and flashing the same friendly smile that has greeted thousands of patrons of his store throughout the years, Dave said that he felt the timing was right to sell the store.

"I'm 60 and I've been doing this since 1966, so that's about 45 years, so it's time to try something new," said Dave, a 1967 graduate of Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks. "My brother and I had been kicking around the idea of selling this store for the last three years. We both knew that we were getting toward the ends of our careers and neither one of us wanted our kids to be in the grocery business, so we discour-



Land Park News Photo/Lance Armstrong  
Dave Compton stands in front of Compton's Market at 4055 McKinley Blvd. in East Sacramento. The longtime popular neighborhood market was recently sold by Dave Compton and his brother, Mike Compton.

aged that and we told them to go to college. My dad used to say, 'I don't think the store will be around when your kids are grown up.' I'm sure my dad is smiling from on high that we got to get out."

Despite his upbeat attitude regarding the sale of the store, Dave, who plans on becoming a part-time Weight Watchers representative, said that he will strongly miss his many loyal customers.

"I'm really going to miss the people who I had a chance to get to

know throughout the years," Dave said. "We're on a first name basis with most of the people who come into the store. I have a lot of casual acquaintances and a lot of good friends (who are Compton's customers), so working with the public is the part I'm going to miss the most. That's always been my sort of forte to just say, 'Hi, how are you doing?' and to learn something about their families. I've al-

See Compton's, page 23

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We want to hear from you.  
Land Park News  
2709 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
ryanrose@valcomnews.com





*Land Park News Photo/Lance Armstrong*  
 Dave Compton (right) prepares to hand a bag of groceries to a customer at Compton's Market in East Sacramento.

## Compton's: 'I never had a day that I didn't want to come to work'

*Continued from page 22*

ways been fairly outgoing when it comes to that. I'm just really happy to have had an opportunity to do that and I'm going to miss that a lot."

### Changing hands

Many customers have expressed their gratitude for the East Sacramento store and their disappointment with its recent sale.

Louisa R. Vessell, who lives less than a mile from the store, said that she was surprised to learn of the sale of the store and called the store upon learning the news.

"I was really saddened when I heard the news (about the sale of the store) and I immediately called the store and talked to Dave and asked, 'Why?' Vessell said.

Jeanette Ashton, 92, who also lives nearby the store, said that she has been shopping at Compton's in East Sacramento since the year that it opened.

"I have been coming here since April 1965 when this was a Stop-N-Shop store," Ashton said. "(Compton's) has been really handy for me for many years. You can get anything you want here. You don't have to go all over. Boy, I'll miss the (Compton family).

They're very accommodating. They are very good, very friendly and they call you by your first name."

Another noteworthy patron of Compton's is Paul Guidera, who Dave said often purchases flowers from the store to place on the East Lawn Cemetery grave of his late wife, Anita.

In addition to the store's many dedicated customers, Dave said that Compton's stores have had a variety of long-term employees, including Royal Clark, who managed the 45th and D streets store for about 20

years, Harry Nakamura, a produce worker for about 12 years and Bob Colby, who worked for about six years in the meat department in the 14th Street and Broadway store.

Another very notable employee, Elaine Davies, is enjoying the final days of her 42-year career working in Compton's Markets.

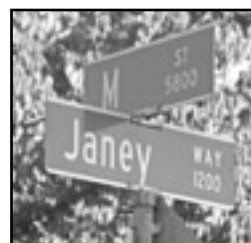
"I started working for Compton's in 1967," Davies said. "At this time, there were a lot more independent grocery stores like Van's markets and Tom Thumb markets. I started working at 14th (Street) and Broadway in a little office adjacent to the store. I originally worked for Bill Compton. Bill did not know a stranger. We would have a luncheon for employees and people would walk up and say, 'Man, you guys are having the best time of your lives' and the next thing you know, Bill would have them sitting down next to us and talking to us. He was just a very congenial man. In fact, all three of the brothers who started Compton's were just loved by everybody. It's just been a great time working here. It has been the wildest ride of my life and I never had a day that I didn't want to come to work."

### New era for Compton's

Being that Compton's Market is not closing, but is simply changing ownership, Dave invites the public to continue to shop at this longtime East Sacramento grocery store once the new ownership begins operating the store.

The store will continue to offer USDA choice meats, a self-service deli and conventional and organic items in its produce, grocery and frozen foods sections.

For additional information about Compton's Market, call (916) 456-2443.



# Christmas Tree wars



By **MARTY RELLES**  
 Land Park News Columnist  
 marty@valcomnews.com

In Hollywood, they had "Star Wars." In Los Angeles, they have gang wars. On Janey Way, when I was growing up in the 1950s, we had a Christmas tree war. This is the story of that epic neighborhood conflict.

The Christmas season was always special on Janey Way. The priests festooned Saint Mary's Church with decorations. The sound of Christmas carols rang out from the church tower. All the neighbors had cookies and candies for the kids to eat. Everyone looked forward to Christmas vacation. Then after Christmas day when the trees were taken down and dumped in the street for pick-up by the yard waste truck, the Janey Way kids picked them up and dragged them over to the two vacant lots in the middle of Janey Way. There we constructed a splendid Christmas tree fort. The fort usually measured 12 feet long, by 4 feet wide, by 5 feet high. We used the fort as a place to hang out and just get away from the hustle and bustle of the season. One Christmas, however, there seemed to be a shortage of usable trees in the neighborhood. What to do?

Someone had an idea. The 58th Street kids had built their fort on the grassy entrance to the National Guard Armory at 58th and M streets. "Let's go over there at night and take their trees." So, late that night, by cover of darkness, we crept across the armory parking lot. We climbed over the gate at the 58th Street entrance, and one by one, took all the trees making up that fort. Then we hauled them back and used them to significantly improve our fort. When the 58th Street kids went to their fort the next morning, the structure had disappeared as if by magic. To the best of my knowledge, they never figured out where the trees went.

That success led us to try yet another Christmas tree caper. "Let's take the trees from the O Street gang's fort." They were set up in Bob Pesce's backyard. That night, we walked over to N Street, then up Mike Pesce's (Bob's cousin) driveway, over the fence and into Bob's backyard. One by one we confiscated those trees until, all of a sudden, the backyard light came on and out of the house stormed Bob and his brother Eddy. Naturally, we fled with all due haste.

The next day we met at our fort to decide what to do next. As we met, we heard a great roar coming down the block. "What's that?" someone yelled. We rushed outside the fort to find the O Street gang standing in the vacant lot yelling angrily about the theft of their Christmas trees and threatening violence. Once the uproar calmed down, we proposed a powwow to settle the matter. After some discussion, we reached an agreement. The Janey Way gang returned the stolen trees to the O Street gang. And the O Street gang would not take any trees from Janey Way.

So ended the great Christmas tree war. In the end, no blood was spilled. Both gangs retained their honor. Life returned to normal on the block, and the Christmas tree war went down in the annals of history as another unforgettable Janey Way memory.



# CALENDAR

## 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](mailto:ryanrose@valcomnews.com). Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost. There is no guarantee that events submitted will appear in the calendar. To ensure placement within the newspaper, please call 429.9901 to place an advertisement.

## DECEMBER

### Travel to Spain

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

### Christmas services

Faith Presbyterian Church at 625 Florin Road welcomes you to its Christmas Services: Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27 – Sunday Services, held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 2, 9 and 16 (Wednesday) Advent Dinner at 6 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45 p.m. Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

### Winter Wonderland at Fairytale Town

Winter Wonderland 2009 is here! Fairytale Town has expanded their family-friendly holiday tradition to two consecutive weekends of after-hours music, magic and merchandise. A festive display of holiday lights and decorations throughout the park will welcome one and all ages to four enjoyable evenings of traditional songs, strolling, shopping and fun. Winter Wonderland at Fairytale Town will be held Saturdays and Sundays, December 5, 6, 12 & 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (this is a special ticketed event and Fairytale Town will close early at 3PM on these dates to prepare). Admission to Winter Wonderland is only \$5 (Children 2 years of age and under will be admitted free). Fairytale Town Members receive 2 for 1 tickets for this event. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 916-808-7462 or visit our website at [www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org).

### Sacramento Opera Carolers

The Sacramento Opera Carolers will perform at Pavilions Shopping Center, 563 Pavilions Lane, Sacramento, CA 95825 on December 5, 12, and 19, 2009 from 1 to 3 p.m.; at The Fountains at Roseville, Roseville Parkway and Galleria Boulevard on December 20, 2009 from 3 to 5 p.m.; and the Town & Country Village, corner of Fulton and Marconi Avenues in Sacramento on December 6 and 13, 2009 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The Sacramento Opera Carolers are members of the Sacramento Opera Chorus.

## DECEMBER 10

### Carmichael's Holiday Tree Lighting

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

### Computer club meeting

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

### California Citizens for Health Freedom, Sacramento Chapter

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

## DECEMBER 11

### "Beginning a Business" seminar

Twin Rivers Adult School will offer a free seminar "Business Concepts for Entrepreneurs." Thinking about starting your own business? Need to jump start your existing business? Considering a virtual online business? This presentation will highlight business structures and operational planning, accounting with Quick Books, and promotional materials development. Join us on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., and again at 6:00 p.m. for this and other information as presented in our new Business Concepts course. SCORE counselors are scheduled to be on-site to answer questions regarding SBA loans and other related resources. This seminar will be held at Twin Rivers Adult School, 3220 Winona Way, North Highlands, CA 95660. For more information, call David at (916) 996-7554 or email [br4a@live.com](mailto:br4a@live.com).

## DECEMBER 11-12

### Galena Street East Holiday Tapestry

Galena Street East, a dynamic group of young performers specializing in music and dance, will perform their 37th Annual Holiday Tapestry production, "Wishes." Voted the "Best of Sacramento" in 2008, this lively, entertaining performing ensemble has captivated audiences for over 36 years with their diverse repertoire of music and dances that also includes traditional folk dances from many countries, including Hungary, Ireland, Korea, and the United States. This is a fabulous event for families as our young ambassadors, ages 5-19, dazzle audiences with their fabulous costumes, song, and dance. Shows are Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The performances are at Hiram Johnson High

School Auditorium; 6879 14th Ave. Tickets are \$15/general admission; \$12/children, students, & seniors; \$10/groups of 10 or more. For more information, call (916) 731-4090; [www.galenastreeteast.org](http://www.galenastreeteast.org).

## DECEMBER 12

### Military Widows

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

### Caleb Greenwood Flapjack 5K and Short Stack Kids Run

Caleb Greenwood School will host a Pancake Breakfast and 5K and Kids run on Saturday, December 12th from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Fun runs will begin at 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Proceeds go to Caleb Greenwood school technology program. For more information, visit [www.flapjack5k.com](http://www.flapjack5k.com)

### Sacramento Preservation Roundtable

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

### Capitol Ballet Co.'s "Nutcracker"

Come and enjoy the wonder of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" performed by Capitol Ballet Company with guest dancers from Stockton Ballet School. Attending this classical ballet has become a holiday tradition for audiences in Northern California's Central Valley. The Nutcracker performances are Saturday, December 12 at 2 p.m. at the Sheldon High School Performing Arts Center, 8333 Kingsbridge Drive, Sacramento and Saturday, December 19 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the San Joaquin Delta College Warren Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, California. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 for children, seniors, students and military with ID. Tickets may be purchased at [www.capitolballet.com](http://www.capitolballet.com), or by calling Capitol Ballet Company (916) 484-1188.

### ARRL honoring Sheriff John McGinnis

The American River Republican Women Federated are honored to welcome Sheriff John McGinnis Sheriff to their luncheon on Dec. 12. John McGinnis Sheriff has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in 2010. His service in Sacramento County will be missed by those who know him and appreciated his dedication to his position and community. Luncheon will be held at Lake Natoma Inn, 702 Gold Lake Drive, Folsom, CA 95630. Republican Women and men are welcome. Membership is open to all Republican Women and Men. Sign in at 11:30 A.M. Luncheon at 12 Noon. Cost is \$27.00. RSVP to 916-482-6069 by December 9, 2009.

## DECEMBER 12-13

### Fremont Presbyterian Church

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

## DECEMBER 13

### Special concert in Carmichael

Bring the entire family to this holiday concert entitled "Symphonies and Sing-Along" the second concert in our "Command Per-

formance!" season, December 13, 3 p.m. at the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Rd. in Carmichael. The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 60-piece adult community band conducted by Dr. Les Lehr. Tickets: Child/ Student/ Senior (60+) free; others \$5, sold at the door. For more information, call (916) 489-2576 or visit [www.sacwinds.org](http://www.sacwinds.org).

## DECEMBER 15

### Business and Career Expo

Sacramento's Business & Career Expo is on Tuesday, December 15th from NOON-4PM at the Sacramento Convention Center. At his FREE community event, attendees will learn about alternatives to traditional employment, including franchise & business opportunities. There will also be educational opportunities from a number of respected institutions. Franchise seminars @ 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 include "How to find and finance a business that's right for you." Executives from three of the hottest Recession Resistant franchise companies coming to Northern California will be on hand to explain their business models and to answer questions. For more information about FranNet West, or about the EXPO, please contact Cari Lyn Vinci at 916.517.1612.

## DECEMBER 16-17

### Travel to Spain

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

## DECEMBER 17

### Latino Dance and Culture Group

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

## DECEMBER 18-20

### Christmas celebration

Everyone is invited to enjoy St. Joseph Catholic Church's celebration of the birth of Jesus. This 45-minute non-denominational event is celebrated through the use of real animals and people in a "live nativity scene." Local bell ringers, musicians, and choirs add their talents to each performance. Dec. 18, 7 p.m.; Dec. 19, 7 p.m. and Dec. 20, 4:30 p.m. are the dates to mark on your calendars. St. Joseph's is located about 2 blocks north of the Freeport bridge on the west side of the river. The performances, lighted parking, and goodies after each performance are free. Merry Christmas. Although not required, non-perishable food items for the less fortunate in the area would be greatly appreciated.

## DECEMBER 20

### Christmas Concert

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation Choir invites you to our

Christmas Concert Sunday, December 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at the Annunciation Church, Alhambra & F Street. A holiday reception will follow in the Hellenic Center.

## DECEMBER 24

### Christmas Eve service

You are invited to experience God's love and peace – Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 3600 J Street, 452-7637

## DECEMBER 27

### River Park Blood Drive

The next River Park Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, December 27, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 5458 Carlson Drive across from the school. Coffee Donuts and BBQ.

### Computer Gardening Class

Class is 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. at 828 I St. Dig It! - A guide to gardening information on the Internet. Join us for this free class as we look at Web sites that provide information on plants, soils, climate and garden design. We will explore sources such as newsletters and weblogs, as well as information from plant and garden societies and educational and governmental sources. At the Central Library, 828 I Street. Free parking on Saturdays in the lots of Sacramento Public garages at Tenth & I streets and Tenth & L streets. To reserve a space, call 264-2920.

## JANUARY 5

### Alzheimer's Support group

Are you looking for someone to talk to – someone who understands what it is like to deal with Alzheimer's disease? Join an Alzheimer's Support group hosted by Carmichael Oaks Senior Living. Ongoing sessions provide families and caregivers guidance and training to assist them in caring for a person with the disease. Our program will offer tips, resources, and the ability to connect with fellow caregivers. The free event starts at 6 p.m. at Carmichael Oaks Senior Living, 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd. Information: Refreshments served. RSVP at 944-2323. For more information, visit [www.carmichaeloaks.com](http://www.carmichaeloaks.com).

## JANUARY 9

### Free Electronic-waste Collection Fundraiser

Proceeds to benefit Kit Carson Middle School's 8th Grade G.A.T.E. Class. Students are planning a 4 day-three-night trip to Washington, D.C. Drop off on: Saturday, January 9, 2010, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kit Carson Middle School parking lot, 5301 N St. You won't even need to get out of your car, we will unload for you! We will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines. We cannot accept: Household appliances (i.e. refrigerators, washers/dryers, etc), furniture, hazardous household waste, including fluorescent light bulbs, paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, tires, etc. If you need something picked up, or have additional questions, please contact Shawn D'Alesandro at 658-2701 ext. 12#.



## District 4 update

# Connecting with the City Council, the community

By **ROB FONG**  
Sacramento City Councilmember  
Special to The Land Park News

### Sacramento's New Year's Eve Celebration

When: Thursday, December 31st

What: Entertainment starts at 6:00pm and fireworks start at 9:00pm

Where: Old Sacramento

This is a FREE event, so bring your family to Old Sacramento this New Year's Eve as we welcome the New Year, 2010!

For more information regarding this event, visit: <http://www.discovergold.org/nye/> or call (916) 808-7777

Pay-by-phone service now available at city-owned parking lots

This service is now available at Lot D (12th & I St.), Lot X (2nd & N St.), Garcia Bend and Miller Park, Sacramento Valley Station at 5th and I Streets (lot 293) and the jury/courthouse parking lot (lot 297) parking lots operated by the city of Sacramento. The new service enables customer who are parking to simply take note of their space number and use their cell phone to pay for parking within a few minutes of parking.

After a one-time account setup, the system securely stores credit card information and automatically retrieves it during a transaction. To access the system, call 916-SAC-PARK (722-7275), or visit [www.paybyphone.com](http://www.paybyphone.com). The system will also send customers a text message well in advance of the time expiring, so the customer has an opportunity to purchase another block of time remotely. The service provider, Verrus, is charging users 35 cents per transaction.

For more information, including Frequently Asked Questions visit [www.sacpark.org](http://www.sacpark.org).

For this year's charitable giving...

Healthy Kids Healthy Future (HKHF) is working to help uninsured children in

Colusa, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yuba Counties obtain medical, dental and vision coverage. Uninsured children come in every color, shape and size. HKHF helps families get enrolled in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families if they are

eligible, and for those who are not, HKHF has developed the Healthy Kids insurance product.

Even a small gift from you can literally be a life-saving, life-changing gift for a child

right here in our community. Every dollar of every gift goes to work serving local children.

If you would like to learn more about HKHF, you may visit their Web site: [www.hkhf.org](http://www.hkhf.org).

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Tower

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In A Cozy  
New Home

- Free Heat and Air
- Free transportation to shopping and Doctor's appointments
- Meet new friends
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## SELL THAT HOME!

- Advertise in the Land Park News -



Call Linda Today! - 429-9901

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday season with family, friends, and neighbors!



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[www.PaulaSwayne.com](http://www.PaulaSwayne.com)  
DRE# 01188158



Kellie Swayne, Realtor  
(916) 206-1458  
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**Windermere**  
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For the Holidays,

# SHOP AT RIVERSIDE... in Land Park

## *i*nspirations

Gift Boutique

Now Serving  
Coffee & More!

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Moving Sale: 30% off all gift items

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Join us January 9th at 10:00 am  
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# FRAUDS & SCAMS

***Have you or someone you know ever fell  
victim to identity theft?***

*Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America and  
rivals that of the illegal drug trade.*

***January 19, 2010 @ 2:00pm***

 **Primrose**  
*Living With Memory Loss*

7707 Rush River Drive  
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***Presented by***

***Carol Borden, Independent***

***Associate of Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.***

*Carol will tell you what you need to know and how to better  
prepare yourself against identity theft.*

***\*Refreshments & Appetizers will be provided\****

Please RSVP by January 14th 2010  
or contact us for more  
information @ (916) 392-3510  
LIC 347001338; 347001342





# Windermere

## Dunnigan Realtors



### UPDATED TUDOR

Single story, 3Bd/2Ba on private tree-lined street. Lot has mature shrubs & floral bds. Formal LR & DR. Dining room overlooks back yard & gardens. French doors to patio. Separate, private master suite. Electric gate to driveway. Smartly updated w/ wood floors. See [www.273712thstreet.2cmymhome.com](http://www.273712thstreet.2cmymhome.com) \$575,000

**PATTY BAETA 806-7761**



### QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD

South Land Park home well cared for by long time owner. Tiled central entry, LR & FR overlooking patio & yard. Refinished hardwood floors, dual pane windows & doors thru-out. Plantation shutters, newer roof, water heater & HVAC. Master suite w/slider to patio. See [www.1388SanClementeWay.com](http://www.1388SanClementeWay.com) \$319,000

**ELAINE OWENS 747-8479**



### LAND PARK TUDOR

Beautifully remodeled Tudor located in Land Park's prestigious College Track. 5 bedrooms, 2 baths w/ over 2800 sf on .27ac. Dual pane windows, clear pest work & pristine condition. An amazing value! See [www.3401CollegeAve.com](http://www.3401CollegeAve.com) \$659,000

**KARA LABELLA PARKER 716-3313**  
**LIBBY LABELLA NEIL 539-5881**



### CONVEINENT LOCATION

Immaculate charming 3br, 2 bath home in a nice neighborhood. Spacious living & family rooms. Updated kitchen & baths. New roof & partial dual pane windows. Wood floors. Covered patio & big tool shed. Nice size attic for extra room or storage. This is a wonderful home! See [www.5637johnsdr.view24hours.com](http://www.5637johnsdr.view24hours.com) \$189,000

**MONA GERGEN 247-9555**



### LAND PARK CUTIE!

New roof, new central heat & air conditioning, fresh exterior paint, clear pest report, new sod & sprinklers on timers in front yard. Beautiful hardwood floors in all rooms except bath. Large covered patio views large backyard with trees. See [www.1804LarkinWay.com](http://www.1804LarkinWay.com) \$239,000

**CONNIE LANDSBERG 761-0411**



### BRENTWOOD VILLAGE

Classic 50's ranch. New roof, central heat/air, hardwood floors, updated baths. Master suite, spacious kitchen, large living room. One of Sacramento's best kept secret neighborhoods w/ tree lined streets, several original owners & lots of charm. See [www.WindermereDunnigan.com](http://www.WindermereDunnigan.com) \$225,000

**DAWN O'CONNOR ROWE 799-4835**

### 40'S COTTAGE

Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, bar & bath. Roof, gutters, HVAC, service panel, wiring, tank-less water heater, insulation, plumbing all replaced in the last 3 yrs. Refinished hardwood floors. Just steps from Crocker Riverside Elementary. See [www.851RobertsonWay.com](http://www.851RobertsonWay.com) \$399,000

**CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483**

### AMAZING REMODEL

1 story home w/3 car garage & gorgeous blt in pool & patio. Large side yard. Stunning laminate wood floors. Newer roof. Living & fam. rooms w/ fireplaces. Fabulous remodel kit w/ granite, stainless appliances, pantry & more. Remodeled baths. New carpet. See [www.7473HighwindWay.2CMYHome.com](http://www.7473HighwindWay.2CMYHome.com) \$295,000

**MONA GERGEN 247-9555**

### WONDERFUL BOX COLONIAL

This fabulous home features fresh paint, new carpet, new linoleum, new light fixtures, & newly refinished entry & staircase. The .25 ac lot is almost all in the backyard & features new sod, mowing strips, gardens & drip system. See [www.3912Bartley.com](http://www.3912Bartley.com) \$499,000

**PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715**



# Windermere

Dunnigan Realtors

**4215 Freeport Blvd.**  
**454-5753**

Visit Our Web Site: [www.windermereDunniganrealtors.com](http://www.windermereDunniganrealtors.com)