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December 13, 2012

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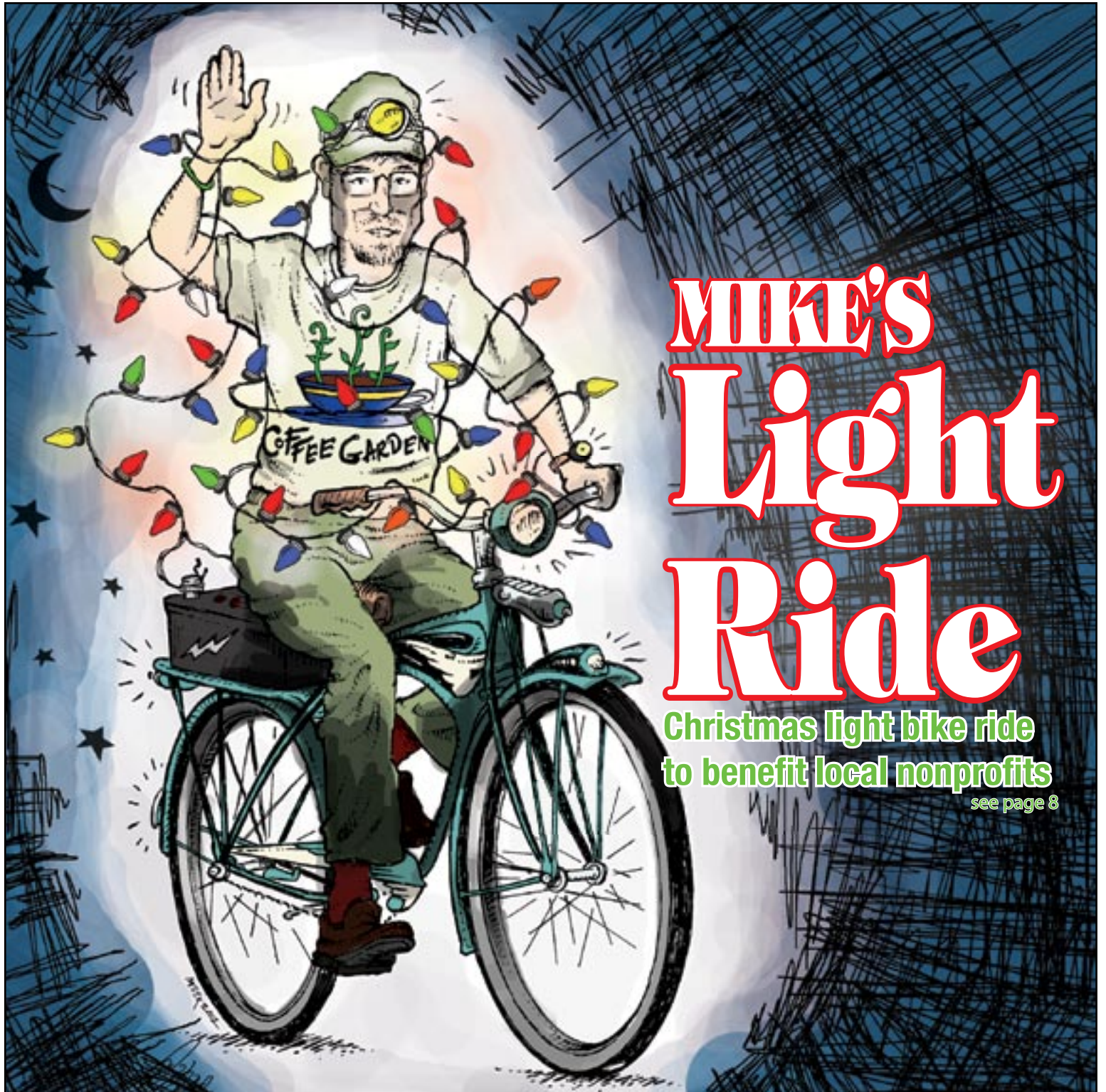
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File photo

The future site of Curtis Park Village, which is currently home to the unsightly, old Union Pacific railyard located behind Sacramento City College, between the neighborhoods of Land Park and Curtis Park.

Curtis Park Village development stays on track, neighbors agreeable to changes

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

City Councilman Jay Schenirer on Nov. 28 sent out an email blast to neighbors, many of whom he said are deeply concerned with the Curtis Park Village project and the proposed amendments that have come forward in recent months.

Local developer Paul Petrovich has been working about eight years, currently home to the unsightly, old Union Pacific railyard located behind Sacramento City College, between the neighborhoods of Land Park and Curtis Park. The increase of the retail space by 17,000 square feet, the

expansion of the commercial footprint, in addition to the timing for construction of the "flex zone", were concerns Schenirer said he heard repeatedly.

On Nov. 27, Schenirer's office was informed by Petrovich that he will not be moving forward with any of the changes initially proposed to the commercial area of the project. His decision was based primarily on the changing commercial and housing markets. However, some changes to the project are still necessary, according to the message from Schenirer.

According to City Councilman Jay Schenirer Chief of Staff Joseph Devlin, some neighbors misinterpreted the purpose of the flex zone. At the south end of the property, there were a number of acres that were slated for commercial development and multifamily homes, while the north end was slated for single family. Between them, there are about six acres that have

CPV: Schenirer to continue to represent neighbors and work with Petrovich

Continued from page 2

been determined to be the flex zone. Some neighbors understood that to be empty space that was to be built up last.

But after the last neighborhood association meeting, the developer and neighbors came to an understanding that building up the "flex zone" will depend on the market. It might end up being single-, multi-family housing, office or retail.

Devlin said Petrovich will move forward with the commercial on the south end and residential on north and make a decision on flex zone at a later time.

Neighbors, Devlin said, were upset that the proposal included significant changes to the commercial portion of the project, specifically regarding

the relocation of multi-family properties and the expansion of commercial as well as the "unstacking" of a 2-story building which would cause the footprint to expand significantly.

Developers are moving forward with requirements and changes to the project that were precipitated by additional storm water runoff that was previously unknown. Much of this water originates from the surrounding neighborhood. To address these issues the Department of Utilities is placing additional requirements on the project that will necessitate a likely modification to the single-family lot lines and the addition of a second detention basin north of the Donner Trunk.

Devlin said this second detention basin will be small and hide the runoff water. The Donner Trunk is a massive pipe that carries about a third of the city's water. It's only 3 feet underground, 10 feet in diameter and more than 100 years old and it bisects the park.

Because of the size and depth of the pipe, water can't get over or under it, Devlin explained, so Petrovich had to redraw lot lines of the single family housing, and creating a Post Subdivision Modification to the tentative map and revising PUD Guidelines and Schematic Plan.

Schenirer said he will continue to represent the neighborhood and work with Petrovich to make CPV a project that maintains the integrity of Curtis Park and is a project that neighbors can all be proud of.

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Taylor's Kitchen held a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 8

Santa greeted and entertained children and their parents during the Taylor's Kitchen's Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 8. The kid-friendly breakfast menu included: banana nut bread, cinnamon crumb cake, fruit platter, French toast sticks, scrambled eggs, chicken apple sausage, bacon, country potatoes and more.

Taylor's Market is located at 2900 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, 95818. 443-6881. www.taylorsmarket.com/

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Professional soccer coming to City College?

Sacramento City College and Warren Smith, founder of Sacramento Professional Soccer, LLC entered into an Exclusive Right to Negotiate relating to holding professional soccer matches at Hughes Stadium. The two organizations are actively working through the details with the intent to enter into an agreement in the early first quarter, 2013.

"We are very excited at the prospect of playing our USL Pro Soccer matches at Hughes Stadium," Smith said.

"The College, the Los Rios Community College District and the people of Sacramento have done an incredible job in the stadium's \$13 million renovation and in bringing this community jewel back to the stature it once was for the people of Sacramento. We whole heartedly expect to announce a formal 'use agreement' in the coming weeks and would like to thank the Los Rios Community College District for their partnership to bring professional soccer to the Sacramento Region."

Smith will lead the franchise with support from Mayor Kevin Johnson, Think BIG Sacramento and the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Smith, former SVP of Business Development for Clean World Partners and co-founder of the Sacramento Rivercats, is a steering committee member of Think BIG Sacramento and has been working with the organization to bring professional outdoor soccer to Sacramento.

Smith has entered into an Exclusive Right to Negotiate with Sacramento City College relating to holding professional soccer matches at Hughes Stadium. The two organizations are actively working through the details with the intent to enter into an agreement in the early first quarter, 2013.

Smith led the grassroots effort starting in 1997 to build a professional base-

ball stadium and attract a professional baseball team to the Sacramento area. He successfully negotiated all real estate agreements necessary for the land, acquisition and stadium development, which included the largest naming rights partnership in minor league baseball and a joint venture agreement with Savage Baseball Group that led to Raley Field's development and the Sacramento River Cats moving to West Sacramento, California.

Sacramento's USL PRO franchise will plan a series of exhibition matches during 2013 involving domestic and international professional soccer teams. In addition, supporter events, soccer clinics and player appearances will be scheduled leading up to the 2014 inaugural season. In early 2013, the franchise will begin the process of building a professional franchise infrastructure, including personnel and naming the team with input and engagement from soccer fans. For updates follow the team on Twitter at @SacProSoccer, "Like" them on Facebook at Facebook.com/SacProSoccer or visit SacProSoccer.com.

The Sacramento area contains one of the strongest regional soccer scenes in the United States, with some of the highest youth soccer participation rates in the country, as well as successful high school and collegiate programs. Numerous athletes from Sac-

ramento currently play in Major League Soccer (MLS) and USL PRO. During the 2010 World Cup, Univision had higher viewership in Sacramento than ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX stations combined for the match between Mexico vs. Costa Rica. Sacramento was also consistently in the top 10 for ESPN/ABC Nielsen ratings during the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

USL PRO is the strongest, best operated and most experienced North American men's professional soccer league below MLS, both on and off the field. Focused on franchise stability and longevity, USL PRO will feature 13 teams in 2013, with over half boasting a decade or more of operational experience. Expansion teams in Phoenix, Arizona and Tampa, Florida will begin participation in the 2013 season.

The league is focused on aggressive, but deliberate, growth by adding teams fully capable of meeting USL and US Soccer Federation standards, which are located in markets that further promote regional league play. In addition to league play, USL PRO teams will continue to compete in the national Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup and various domestic and international exhibitions. USL PRO is the longest standing pro league affiliate member within the US Soccer Federation.

Johnson said, "Today is an exciting day - not only



Photo by Steve Crowley / steve@valcomnews.com
 Sacramento City College and Warren Smith, founder of Sacramento Professional Soccer, LLC entered into an Exclusive Right to Negotiate relating to holding professional soccer matches at the newly renovated Hughes Stadium.

for soccer fans around our region, but also for those who believe fervently in Sacramento's potential as a vibrant and emerg-

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South Land Park resident donates funds to local Chinese school

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: Lance Armstrong's series on dairies in Land Park will be continued on Jan. 24.

South Land Park resident and philanthropist Dr. Herbert Yee, who is also recognized for his many years of working as a dentist in the capital city, makes it no secret that he is a staunch supporter of education.

Already known for assisting in the advancement of education through other projects, Herbert recently presented a check in the amount of \$12,500 to Sacramento's Confucius Chinese School.

The school, which has an enrollment of about 70 students, received this charitable donation during a special dinner honoring Herbert. The donation will be used for teachers' salaries, janitorial services and school supplies.

The event, which was held on Sunday, Dec. 2 at Rice Bowl restaurant at 2378 Florin Road, began with a performance by some of the school's students, who sang "God Bless America."

Directing the event, which was attended by about 250 people, were its masters of ceremony Alfred Yee, the school's principal, who spoke in English, and Henry Yee, who spoke in Chinese.

Represented at the event were the local Chinese Con-

confucius Church and school, the Chinese Benevolent Association of Sacramento, the Yee Association and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Association.

And attending the gathering as special honored guests were Alan Yee, the western grand president of the Yee Association from Los Angeles, Eddie Yee, the president of San Francisco's Yee Association, Yi Hua Yu of Stockton's Yee Association and Bill Wong, president of the Chinese Benevolent Association of San Francisco.

As a prelude to the dinner, the event included several speakers and presentations.

Among these speakers were Senator Leland Yee, who represents District 8 in the western half of San Francisco and the majority of San Mateo County, Sacramento County Supervisor Jimmie Yee, Dr. Jong Chen, president of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Sacramento, and Frank Kwong, president of the Sun Yat-sen Memorial and Soo Yuen Benevolent associations.

In speaking beyond the topic of Herbert's monetary contributions, Kwong said, "(Herbert is) the nicest person, he's my mentor, he's a good friend, a good father. That means a lot to our community. It's a good example of how we put our community together."

Herbert also spoke to the gathering's attendees, who also included his wife, Inez, their sons, Randy, Alan and



Photo by Lance Armstrong
Left to right, Dr. Jong Chen, Senator Leland Yee, Dr. Herbert Yee and Supervisor Jimmie Yee pose for this photograph after Leland Yee presented Herbert Yee with a state senate proclamation.

Wesley, their four daughters-in-law, and five of their grandchildren.

In honor of his goodwill to the Sacramento community, Herbert was presented with a state senate proclamation from Leland Yee.

He also received a proclamation from the People's Republic of China and a plaque from the Chinese Benevolent Association of Sacramento.

And as a show of appreciation for Herbert's financial donation to the school, students of the school presented him with a large, artistically decorated, heavy stock paper that

included a drawing of an apple on a stack of books and a bullhorn-like image with the words: "Thank you, Dr. Yee, Confucius Chinese School."

Surrounding these features were signatures of the school's students.

Herbert is very well connected to Sacramento's Confucius Chinese School, considering that in addition to attending the school himself, his father, Henry, and all of his sons and grandchildren were once students at the school.

Furthermore, Henry, Herbert and Randy Yee have all served on the school's board.

Herbert described his longtime involvement in assisting in the advancement of education and his overall love for education.

"My love is in education," Herbert said. "I built a school in China. That's education. I'm on

the board of the University of the Pacific. That's education. I love the Chinese school. That's education. I have an exhibit at the (California State) Railroad Museum. I'm on the board yet, 32 years. And that's education about trains, transportation. I have a hologram at The California Museum about the history of our family, so that's education. In Fiddletown, you'll see my great-grandfather's herb store. So, I am more attuned to encourage young people to go to college, and especially the Chinese. But now you really don't need to encourage them. They know, especially the immigrants who come from even Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, China. That's why (at the University of California,) Berkeley, more than half of the students

See School donations, page 7

School: Herbert Yee donated \$12,500 to Confucius Chinese School

Continued from page 6

are Asian, because their parents encouraged them to study."

Herbert, who graduated from Sacramento High School in June 1942, said that his own father, who began attending Stanford University in 1918, encouraged him to attend schools to further his education.

"I skipped low 7th (grade) and I just went straight from 6th grade to high 7th (grade) and I skipped the last six months of high school," Herbert said. "Of course, my father pushed me a little bit. Then he said, 'You try Stanford.' I didn't know it was so tough to get (into Stanford), but I got in. I was there 70 years ago. Now I'm 88, almost."

Eventually, Herbert spent more than a half century working as a dentist. This time included his work as the official dentist for the staff of governors Pat Brown and Ronald Reagan.

Herbert, who is a longtime member of the Sutter Club, American Legion Post 692, Lion's Club District 4 C5 and Del Paso Country Club, has served as president of many organizations, including the California State Board of Dental Examiners, American Cancer Society for Sacramento County, Sacramento Chinese Benevolent As-

sociation and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Association.

Additionally, Herbert recently reached a milestone as a South Land Park resident.

After experiencing difficulty purchasing a home in the area due to his ethnicity, Herbert was finally able to buy his current home on Nov. 2, 1952.

He celebrated the 60th anniversary of this event with his sons, and noted, "Dad is kind of a sentimental guy."

In speaking about his achievement of purchasing a home in South Land Park, Herbert said, "I was one of the first (Chinese to live in the area). I don't want to claim to be the (first). Since that time, quite a number of Asians have lived here."

With his love for education, Herbert said that he is proud that his sons were able to graduate from college and become successful in their professional lives.

Randy is a retired dentist, as well as a member of the Confucius Chinese School board, Alan is a pulmonary doctor, Wesley is a dentist, and his late son, Douglas, was a dentist.

Herbert and Inez also have a granddaughter, Juliana, who is attending Stanford Law School.

Wesley, who gave a speech about his father's life during the event, recognized the importance of his mother in his Herbert's life.

"What my father accomplished would not have happened without the love his life and his soul mate, our mother, Inez," Wesley said. "She raised four boys, was a Cub Scouts den leader, attended our PTA meetings and worked in my father's office. Later she would accompany my father worldwide on his missions to help people around the world and in our nation."

As a man who is always involved in many projects, Herbert does not feel that the word, "retired," is a word that would best describe his current status in life.

"Now, I'd like to say I'm retired, but you know a man like me, we never retire," Herbert said. "My mind is always thinking. I always say when I wake up in the morning, I want to think that I want to be a better person - a better person today than yesterday. And I want to see how I can best take care of my little wife, who I married 67, going on 68 years (ago), and, of course, my family and all the business I have."

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Coffee Garden owner starts holiday bike ride to help local nonprofits

By CORRIE PELC
corrie@valcomnews.com

It all started when Michael Madsen, owner of The Coffee Garden in Curtis Park, was talking to his customers – one about bike rides and another about a local nonprofit that needed some help.

The result? The first-ever Mike's Light Ride – a fundraiser and bicycle cruise through Curtis Park to enjoy holiday lights in the community – to take place on Saturday, December 22.

Feeling Festive

Madsen says the idea for the bike ride initially came from a conversation he had with a customer about community bike rides that had occurred in Sacramento in the past. They thought The Coffee Garden would be a good location for people to meet up for a bike ride.

Mike's Light Ride will begin with a party at The Coffee Garden starting at 2pm, where attendees can mingle with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and Snoopy. Additionally, Madsen invited the Sacramento SPCA to talk about animals available for adoption.

Then starting at 6pm, the bike ride will begin. Madsen plans to take riders on a route through some of the best holiday lights in the area, plus there will be a few stops for hot chocolate or hot apple cider along the way.

And to add to the holiday fun, riders are invited to come dressed in their holiday best and decorate their bikes for the chance to win prizes. "We're having contests for the bike with the most lights, best kid's bike, best costume or best holiday wear, and then best bike and holiday wear overall," Madsen adds.

Tubman House

Although Mike's Light Ride is all about holiday fun, it's also a way of giving back.

From another customer, Madsen found out the staff of a local nonprofit, Waking the Village, held their weekly staff meetings at his coffee shop. And then he also found out they had recently lost part of their funding for their program Tubman House and decided to do something to help. "They do a lot of good work, so we decided to give whatever we get to (at Mike's Light Ride) to them," he says.

According to Bridget Alexander, executive director of Waking the Village, Tubman House is a transitional community where young parents between the ages of 18 to 21 that are currently homeless live with their children for 18 months as they work towards independence.

"We're ensuring this is going to be their last experience with homelessness (by) tackling anything that might prove a barrier to that ability," Alexander says, such as helping them finish

high school and start college or career training, as well as receive counseling or parenting help they might need.

"They are working towards having a support network that's going to sustain them, but also putting in place things and identifying the environment that's going to allow them to maintain momentum after they (leave)," she adds.

As of October, Alexander says they lost about 60 percent of their funding after a federal government program was ended, leaving them "scrambling to raise money in challenging times." "We're going to lose 18 beds if we can't close the gap, and of our six people staff we've laid off two staff positions," she adds. "We're really hoping to get back to full staff again as our programs operate much better with all the people we need on board."

Madsen said because they intend on collecting more gifts than the Tubman House could use this Christmas, two other nonprofits have been selected to benefit from Mike's Light Ride: Well-spring Women's Center and the Praise of Worship Church of God, which is near Coffee Garden and has a list of 14 children in need of gifts.

To help out Tubman House, Madsen is asking attendees for donations of money, toys and food.

Alexander says diapers are a huge need for Tubman House, as they go through about 1,000 a month. And food is always needed as they have

about 20 people living in their program at one time.

Overall, Alexander is "delighted" Madsen selected Tubman House to be the beneficiary of Mike's Light Ride, especially at a time when they could use the community's help to make their families' holidays a bit brighter.

"Any event like this is a key reminder that we're all responsible for one another, be it our neighbors, be it the poorest among us," Alexander says. "And that at this time most of all it's so important that we're reminding ourselves of that and doing the work of making sure that we are an authentic community where all of us are honored and have our needs met, especially for children."

And Madsen hopes Mike's Light Ride will be a great way to bring family and friends together for a fun evening to do something good for Tubman House. "That I can turn around and help them is awesome, and having the community help them also is awesome," he adds.

Mike's Light Ride will take place Saturday, December 22, at The Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd., in Sacramento. Party starts at 2pm, bike ride starts at 6pm. For more information, call 916-457-5507 or visit thecoffeegarden.com.

For more information on Waking the Village and Tubman House, visit wakingthevillage.org.



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NorCal Big Band Preservation Holiday Gala to be held Dec. 16 at Elks

Celia Cottle's 21-piece J. Street Jazz Cats from Davis gets dancers in a nostalgic and festive mood at the 1-2 p.m. kickoff of the holiday gala ball on Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Sacramento Elks Lodge, No. 6, located at 6446 Riverside Blvd. Following their presentation is legendary bandleader Buddy Harpham, 91, who follows from 2 to 5 p.m. with an array of Christmas songs, plus hits of the 30's, 40's, and 50's in swing, fox trot, waltz and Latin tempos.

Cottle's band of 13-15 year old musicians, who rehearse weekly, will play such holiday treats as "Let it Snow", "Jingle Bells", "Santa Claus", "Silver Bells". Celia formed her first "J Street Jazz Band", renamed the "Cats" by the

more members for Cottle's SPCA housing more than a dozen cats in her spacious home.

Harpham's will be playing these and other favorites like "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer", "White Christmas", "Chestnuts Roasting", "Christmas", and other dance favorites during the three 15-minute segments of ladies' tags beginning at 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. Regular admissions is \$12, groups of 10 people are \$11 each, with Society's Gold Card holders for \$10. Singles and couples are welcome with dance hosts available. Snacks at 3 p.m., door prizes at 4 p.m. More details are available by calling 444-6138 or emailing loucopp45@gmail.com.

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Land Park toy drives make it easy to give back this holiday season

By CORRIE PELC
corrie@valcomnews.com

Economically things are tough for everyone, and while many may wish they could donate to those in need as much as they have done so in the past, it may be very hard to do so this year.

Luckily there are a number of toy drives being held throughout December in the Land Park area where just a small donation can have a big impact.

For example, at the Sacramento Zoo Food and Toy Drive, zoo visitors can bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or a non-perishable food item for the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, and receive \$1 off their Zoo admission as a thank you. "The Zoo could not be here without the support of the community, and it's just one of the ways we are able to help out and give back," says Tonja Swank, public relations coordinator for the Sacramento Zoo.

Land Park

Sacramento Zoo Food and Toy Drive

WHEN: Through December 31, 10am-4pm
WHAT: Collecting donations for Toys for Tots and Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. Bring a non-

perishable food item or unwrapped toy and receive \$1 off your Zoo admission
WHERE: 3930 West Land Park Drive, Sacramento
QUESTIONS: 916-808-5888

Sacramento S.U.T. (Simply United Together) 2012 Annual Toy Drive

WHEN: Until December 21
WHAT: Collecting new toys of all kinds for ages 0-17. Toys valued \$5 or up. Toys are handed out at Loaves & Fishes.
WHERE: Donations accepted at Colbert/Ball Tax Service, 2251 Florin Rd, Ste. 146, Sacramento from 10am-7pm, ;NorCal Fashion, 3600 Broadway, Sacramento from 10am-6pm; Tommy T's Comedy Club, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova (donate a toy and receive free admission to a comedy show)
QUESTIONS: Cheryl Watson, 916-470-7386

General Sacramento Area

Sacramento Sheriff's Toy Project

WHEN: Donations accepted all year long
WHAT: New, unwrapped toys
WHERE: Drop off donations at the main office, 10117 Mills Station Road, Ste. C, in Sacramento, or any

Sheriff's Department. Visit www.toyproject.org for more locations.
QUESTIONS: 916-361-4571 or www.toyproject.org

Fill The Truck

WHEN: December 8, 9am-5pm
WHAT: Donate new toys to children who take part in Salvation Army's Christmas Assistance programs. Once the donation receptacles are full, The Salvation Army will bring the donations to their local units and distribute the gifts this holiday season as part of their support to local families in need.
WHERE: Visit www.gosalarmy.org for a list of participating Walmart stores.
QUESTIONS: 916-563-3731

Great Toy Drive

WHEN: Until December 15
WHAT: Join KTXL FOX 40, Big O Tires, 107.9 THE END and KHOP 95.1 in collecting new, unwrapped toys for Shriners Hospital for Children of Northern California.
WHERE: Donations can be dropped off at various Big O Tire locations - visit FOX40.com/toys for a full list.
QUESTIONS: gsaunders@tribune.com

Fleet Feet Holiday Classic

WHEN: December 16, race starts at 9am

WHAT: The 6th annual Fleet Feet Holiday Classic is a free 5K run/walk. Since there's no entry fee, race participants are encourage to donate a new, unwrapped toy at the event to benefit The Salvation Army Toy Drive.
WHERE: Sutter's Landing Park (28th and A Streets), Sacramento
QUESTIONS: 916-441-1751

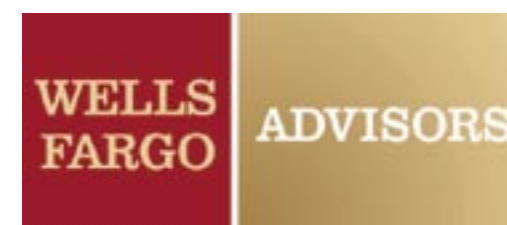
2012 CHIPS for Kids

WHEN: Until December 19
WHAT: Join KCRA 3 and the California Highway Patrol by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to a participating location.
WHERE: Visit www.kcra.com for a full list of drop-off locations.
QUESTIONS: Adrian Quintero, Public Information Officer, El Protector, CHP Valley Division at (916) 731-6516

Soft Toy Drive at IKEA West Sacramento

WHEN: Until December 29
WHAT: Donate a new soft toy to the UC Davis Children's Hospital. And for every soft toy purchased and donated at IKEA West Sacramento, the store will donate \$1 to UNICEF.
WHERE: Donations accepted at the donation bin at the store's exit.
QUESTIONS: 916-371-4532

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Faces and Places:
Holiday Magic at the Zoo

Photos by Stephen Crowley
 Stephen@valcomnews.com

Families bundled up on Saturday, Dec. 8 to enjoy the holiday season at the Zoo. The Zoo-fari Market was open for holiday shopping. And there was food and toy drive for Toys for Tots and the Sacramento Food Bank. Meanwhile, animals got special treats delivered to them and staff members were shared facts, secrets and answered questions. The Sacramento Zoo is located at 3930 West Land Park Dr. For ore information visit <http://saczoo.org>



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Photo courtesy of The Coffee Garden
 An example of art on display this month at the Coffee Garden.

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Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!



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Land Park residents gather citrus for Harvest Sacramento

Every winter, starting in late November and early December, massive amounts of citrus fruit begin to show themselves on front yard and backyard trees throughout Sacramento. Lemons, limes, grapefruit, oranges and kumquats all begin turning from their "hidden" dark green color towards ripeness. For most people in our area, even with the color change, this amazing food source is still hidden in plain sight—grocery stores and farmers markets sell massive amounts of this same fruit, while our truly "local" fruit falls to the ground to rot.

Soil Born Farms' Harvest Sacramento has been organizing neighborhood residents for the past four years to not only help people see this fruit, but to harvest the fruit and distribute it to local food assistance agencies like Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. In 2012 alone, over 53,000 pounds of fruit was harvested and donated with the help of 800+ volunteers.

"Knowing that boxes and boxes of citrus would reach the hungry instead of littering neighborhood gutters just makes good sense," Tom Miner, South Land Park volunteer and fruit donor said. "I got to know neighbors farther down my street and around the corners in every direction, people I now recognize in the library or the grocery store—the whole experience helped build a sense of

community through helping one another," Miner said.

One of the goals for this coming citrus season is to have neighborhood-based teams help coordinate the harvesting activities in the areas where they live. Harvest Sacramento received a large donation of harvesting tools, so teams can have access to their own set. In addition to tools, Harvest Sacramento will provide training food source is still hidden in plain sight—grocery stores and farmers markets sell massive amounts of this same fruit, while our truly "local" fruit falls to the ground to rot.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities can provide meaningful contributions. Harvest Sacramento is as interested in bringing people together and

building community relationships as they are in harvesting fruit. Randy Stannard added, "We don't just need people to get up on ladders and pick fruit. We can always use volunteers who like to enter data, organize and help with the coordination efforts via computer and phone. We need people to walk neighborhoods and find trees to harvest, photographers, videographers, bloggers, and cooks to make food for post-event meals. Young kids can help move buckets and sort fruit... we need people to drive vehicles. Everybody can help—that is the beauty of it!"

Ivy Glasgow, South Land Park volunteer and fruit donor, said she participates because she wants to be part of that connection.

"It's tons of fun to me because we get to be outdoors, and enjoy the cool weather. It's something physical to do, that really makes a difference

for the individual recipients. I especially enjoy meeting and leading groups of young people and seeing their enthusiasm," Glasgow said.

In addition to volunteers, the project is still looking for more fruit trees to harvest. Harvests take place year-round, so while they are looking for citrus to harvest this winter, they are also looking for stone fruit, apples, pears, figs, pomegranates, and persimmons. They are willing to pick up pre-harvested fruit and vegetables as well. It is easy to offer fruit from your

tree or garden—they have an online form on their website or give a phone call or email to Harvest Sacramento.

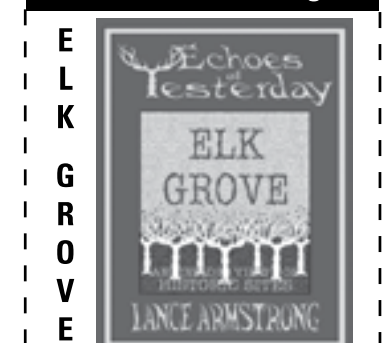
For more information or to get involved with Soil Born Farms' Harvest Sacramento, visit their website, www.soilborn.org/harvestsacramento or contact Randy Stannard, stannard@soilborn.org or (530) 204-8082.

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Curtis Park's Michael Neumann to conduct 'Of Joy & Fate' holiday concert

By SUSAN LAIRD
slaird@handywriting.com

Curtis Park resident Michael Neumann is a deep gentleman of many talents.

Neumann is the artistic director and conductor for both the Sacramento Youth Symphony and the Folsom Symphony.

For the past nine years, the latter symphony has grown in quality to the delight of audiences throughout the region. Musicians from the symphony hail from every neighborhood in Sacramento: Pocket Greenhaven, Land Park, Arden, East Sacramento and elsewhere.

Neumann puts a great deal of time into considering each work the symphony will perform. A fine artist himself, he carefully develops concerts of depth and complexity that delight both the newcomer and the jaded audiophile.

This December's winter concerts are a perfect case in point. The Folsom Symphony will host two holiday concerts that will gladden hearts on Dec. 15 and Dec. 16. The repertoire for "Of Fate & Joy" ranges from contemplative to festive to joyous.

According to Webster's Common School Dictionary

of 1892, "fate" is considered to be "a decree; (an) inevitable necessity...supposed by the ancients to determine the course of human life."

Few would argue that, in its strictest definition, all mortal life is "fated" to have a beginning and an end. Not a jot can be changed about it. Somber, indeed.

Between those fixed points in time are all the things that go into life: good and evil, happiness and sadness.

And that, according to the sagges, is where mere mortals have true power and freedom. Because happiness is a choice humans can make along the way.

Composers and poets throughout the ages struggled with these weighty matters. Many chose "Joy" as a personal statement of faith, and as a testimony to freely choosing the good in life. Such choices, they felt, bring out the best in the human spirit. They are heroic.

Appropriately enough, the concerts kick off with Ludwig van Beethoven's "Fidelio Overture." First performed in 1805 Vienna, this opera was risky, given Beethoven's political outlook. After all, the Napoleonic Wars

were scarcely two years old. "Fidelio" musically tells a tale of personal sacrifice, heroism and eventual triumph...with an underlying struggle for liberty and justice. Ludwig could have lost his head - literally.

Next on the program is George Frederic Handel's "Music for the Royal Fireworks." A secular piece of music, it was commissioned by England's King George II to celebrate a great hope for peace: the 1749 signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. The music is Handel at his most spectacular.

The treaty? It didn't quite pan out the way the crowned heads of Europe had hoped. Little was accomplished in the end. Fate stepped in.

The evening continues with powerful works by Rimsky-Korsakov ("Capriccio Espagnol"), Brahms ("Schicksalslied," accompanied by the Folsom High School Chamber Singers), Johann Strauss Sr. ("Radetzky March") and his son ("Tritsch Tratsch Polka"). Popular composer Leroy Anderson's work "Christmas Festival" will put audiences in the holiday mood.

Handel makes another appearance with his magnificent work from "Messiah" - the "Hallelujah" chorus.

Happiness, it is said, is not a destination. It is something one encounters along the way. One can choose to be joyful, or to be otherwise. In celebration of this fact, each member of the audience is invited to sing along to traditional carols near the conclusion of each concert.

Webster's little dictionary from 1892 defines "joy" as "gladness, delight, exultation...bliss."

Intangible delights that the Folsom Symphony and Neumann specialize in every December.

"Of Fate & Joy" will be performed two days only, on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. Performances are held at Folsom Lake College's Three Stages Theater. Get your tickets soon...these concerts sell out every year. Call (916) 916-6088 or visit www.threestages.net. Also visit www.folsomsymphony.com.

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SAMPLE AD

(actual size ad)

Saying goodbye to a neighborhood icon

Since 1981 Cut N Run has been a staple in the neighborhood as one of the premier haircutting shops.

Cut n Run was first opened in October of 1981 by the Castleberry family, Jack, Elaine and Ginger. Their core vision of bringing a family valued business to the area still remains today. After eight years of growing the business, the Castleberrys recruited the services of additional family members, Dusty and Christine.

In the 12th year of business the Castleberry's decided it was time for a change and agreed to pass the business on to a former employee and young entrepreneur by the name of Connie Cooper.

For the past 20 years Connie has remained true to the core values that founded Cut n Run, and has continued to provide haircuts while supporting the community she has grown to love. To grow the business further, Connie added tanning booths in 1998.

"This has been a great community to raise my daughter as a single parent," Cooper said.

"We have developed so many bonds and relationships over the past 20 years, with not only our clientele, but with other merchants in the area as well. We have watched our children grow up together, and I still find it humbling to have old time customers stop by (even if to just say hi) as they come home to the area to visit family," Cooper said.

So, once again things will be changing on Freeport Boulevard. As with the Castleberry's, Cooper has decided to scale things down a bit and semi-retire.

She will now be located at Wava's Beauty salon and will provide the same service four days a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No appointments are necessary.

"It's a sweet sadness ... with over 20 years of ownership and 32 years in the same location



Connie Cooper at Cut n Run.

Courtesy photo

I will be retiring the name Cut n Run," Cooper said.

Cooper further stated that she loves the community she has had the privilege and opportunity to serve and will continue to provide hair cutting services to her devoted clientele at her new location.

Connie is excited to finally have weekends free, allowing her to spend more time with her husband, and doing what they enjoy most, riding their Harley's.

Wava's is located at 4930 Freeport Blvd. (Behind Dollar Tree). For more information, call 455-9875.

Got News?

E-mail us, editor@valcomnews.com

CALENDAR

For more calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

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

ONGOING:

Need An End-of-Year Write Off?

The Casa Garden Restaurant was established in 1974 to provide financial support to the children of the Sacramento Children's Home. Today they're fulfilling the same mission, and in the same place! But, 38 years later, they are in need of capital improvements such as painting, new carpets, and kitchen fixtures. Consider making a charitable donation to the Casa Garden Restaurant before the end of the year and help them with improvements and help with your taxes. Please note "capital improvements" on your check so your donation is applied correctly. Checks should be sent to: Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd. Sacramento, 95820

The Camellia Symphony now accepts vehicle donations

If you have a vehicle you'd like to donate to support CSO, call 320-0476 to get the process started. Not only is a vehicle donation a great way to support classical music in your community, but it may also provide you with a tax deduction. http://www.camelliasymphony.org/sponsor/vehicle-donation/

Old Sacramento Theatre of Lights

Theatre of Lights continues through the holiday season with two 20-minute light shows at 6:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday until Dec. 23 with special Monday shows at 6:15 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The Christmas Eve show will only be at 6:15 p.m. New Year's Eve will feature Theatre of Lights as an important piece of the overall fireworks spectacular with shows running later in the evening at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Chautauqua Children's Theatre presents its Christmas production 'Reindeer Revolution'

Playing every Saturday at noon and 2 p.m. Now through Dec. 22. Tickets are \$7 all ages and can be purchased by calling 489-7529 or by emailing: tickets@cplayhouse.org 5235 Engle Rd. Ste. 110. Carmichael.

DECEMBER

Classical Revolution performs:

Dec. 13: Classical music in a comfortable setting, Bows and Arrows, 8 p.m., free of charge. 1815 19th St., Sacramento

Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting

Dec. 13: The meeting topic will be "ID Theft Protection" presented by Sarah Dalton of the CA Office of Privacy Protection. A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. To be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, located at 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA 366-1687 or website www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

Salvation Army Band to be featured at River's Edge Senior Community

Dec. 13: The Salvation Army ensemble is made up of Salvation Army musicians from the Sacramento area. They play at many events throughout the year and especially at Christmas where they can be seen playing around the Red Kettle. Their main purpose is to support the weekly church services at The Salvation Army. Anyone interested in attending should contact the community at 921-5131 by Monday, Dec. 10. Refreshments will be served. Event starts 2 p.m. 601 Feature Dr.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Dec. 14: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes de Sacramento Announces Annual Holiday Ballet Folklorico "Posada Navideña"

Dec. 14: Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes de Sacramento presents a festival of vibrant sound and shimmering colors in this special Mexican Christmas production. Three Stages Performing Arts Center at Folsom Lake College, 10 College Parkway, Folsom, beginning at 7:30 p.m. www.threestages.net.

Jesus' birthday party

Dec. 14: Come join in for a free family fun event featuring a short Christmas skit, A Prime Time Christmas, and music by the Youth Praise Band. Afterward, there will be fun games including pin the tail on the donkey, and a sharing of piñata, cake and ice cream as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday. If one is able, please bring an unwrapped toy for an underprivileged child. For more information, call (916) 487-5192 or visit northminsteronline.org. Party starts at 7 p.m. at

the Northminster Presbyterian Church, located at 3235 Pope Ave.

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library presents technology petting zoo

Dec. 15: Thinking about buying a tablet or eReader for the holidays? The Sacramento Public Library can help you decide which one to purchase at its technology petting zoo at 1 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven branch, 7335 Gloria Dr. There will be a full selection of the latest gadgets to see and try out. Plus, library staff will show how to use them with the Sacramento Public Library's digital catalog of downloadable books. For more information, 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Free wine tasting

Dec. 15: Wine & More will give the public the opportunity to indulge in a variety of delicious wines from Bordeaux, the most fa-

mous wine-growing region in the world, at its newest wine tasting event from noon to 6 p.m. The event will be held at all California Total Wine & More stores, including Sacramento (Arden), located at 2121 Arden Way. For more information, call 921-5328.

Celebration Arts Presents 'Waiting to be Invited'

Dec. 15: It's the summer of 1964 in Atlanta. Four middle-aged black women, co-workers from a local doll factory, travel by city bus to a "whites only" eating establishment inside a downtown Atlanta department store. Their purpose is to "test" their newly acquired civil rights handed down by the Supreme Court outlawing segregation in eating establishments. The play will take place at the Celebration Arts Theatre, 4469 D St. 455-2787 or www.celebrationarts.net. For tickets online visit: www.mycommunityevents.com.

See more calendar, page 22

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TIM COLLOM 247-8048

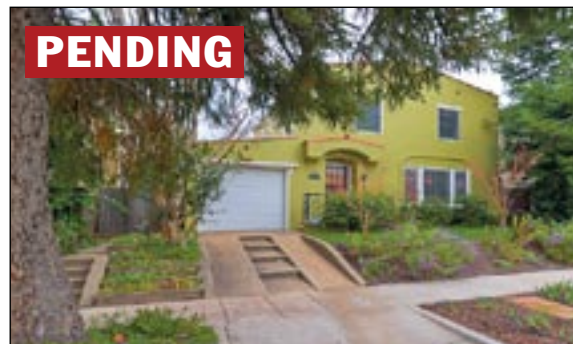


PENDING

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LEIGH RUTLEDGE 612-6911



PENDING

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3 bedrooms 1½ baths, built in 1925, this charming home has been lovingly maintained and updated, and is ready for you. Fantastic floor plan, hardwood floors, built-ins, beautiful leaded glass doors; and remodeled and updated kitchen and baths. \$469,500

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483



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