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LAND PARK NEWS

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Neighbors and community come together over the old Vic's IGA market

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CKM Women's tennis comes so close again

See page 4







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Neighbors and community come together over the old vacant IGA market

By MONICA STARK

Camelot Realty: Moved. Brickhouse Oven Pizza: Gone. Erawan Thai Restaurant: Moved. The dry cleaners: Gone? Highlander: Gone. While the list continues, the biggest blow to the South Hills Shopping Center since earlier this year: Vic's IGA. Things seem to be getting worse. Trash, mattresses and even couches have been found behind the center. And as vacancies at the shopping center mount, neighbors want to know what will become of the old grocery store? Because without a strong shopping center anchor, they fear problems will continue to get worse.

That outlook will not waver the neighborhood's dedication for preservation and revitalization, however.

"What makes Land Park and South Land Park special, as compared to places like Natomas, Elk Grove or Roseville, is the architecture," says neighbor Whitney Roberts Fong. "It seems like the residents recognize that when it comes to homes, but the commercial buildings don't seem to be as cherished. I also hope potential tenants recognize that our neighborhood has the potential to spend a ton there. abilities of the owners of the shopping center." It's such an underutilized space; we are all eager to see something great."

That vision of hope and passion for the shopping center floods South Land Park's NextDoor every few weeks, says South Land Park Neighborhood Association board mem-"It's interesting how passionate people are whole lot I can do," he said. about their neighborhood market or lack of. The best case scenario is if the shopping cen- where code enforcement can cite the owner, ter owners (there's three of them) put money into the property for quality tenants."



This couch and Starbuck's coffee cup is just some of the trash behind the old Vic's IGA market

Will that happen? Let's hope so.

In his opening remarks at a packed neighborhood meeting held at Giovanni's Pizza on Wednesday, Nov. 18, regarding South Hills, Sacramento City Councilmember Jay Schenirer said, "It's important to come together as a city. I am in this with you, but there are limits of the power of the city. As a representative of the city, I have no control of the

Schenirer told the 150 people in the crowd he can help with code enforcement and provide support to business owners, but that only goes so far as there is no more redevelopment money to help support tenants. "Small business owners who are interested in getting a reber and secretary of the board Brian Ebbert. sponse from the center's owners, there's not a

Litter, peeling paint, graffiti – those are items

See Vic's, page 3

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Vic's:

but even citing an owner can take five to seven years to get it to the point where the city can legally take actions. It's can be a uniform upgrade, so not some quick fix, city staff explained.

While Sacramento Pocent. Well, (Peletta) was talkto rob." Ebbert added owners have many readers). of the south portion hired a security company that helped reduced crime. They also added lighting in the parking lot.

To many people's displeaees the old Neptune's Table (also the Highlander, Red worth fixing. It's been there the reality." for a long time. Nothing at this point (is slated to replace it). The owners would wait for a tenant built to suit," he said after the meeting.

With a reported 13 vacancies throughout the shopping center, Schenirer explained that many parts of the building are damaged. "It's a fairly old site and particularly for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Acts upgrades) for new tenants -- that would have to work out for ownership and the tenant. It may be prohibitive at some level."

The south property, Ebbert said, including the post of-

a couple million dollars and there were no takers. "Mayto speak."

ta said crime has gone down the city wants neighbors to cery store. We'll do outreach." 50 percent, after the meeting, know that they will continue Ebbert said, "our board was to reach out to the property bor Gretchen Steinberg, presbriefed that it was up 35 per- owners regarding finding a re- ident of Sacramento Modern, placement anchor tenant. The a nonprofit that advocates for ing about within the shopping city has contacted the prop- preserving modern architeccenter. But, that's because it's a erty owners and they've also ture and art, wrote Schenirghost town and there's no one reached out to Trader Joe's (as er's office thanking them for

the city's economic develop- has been monitoring the cenment department, told the ter, participating in varicrowd, "Trader Joe's has gone ous public meetings and ento high density infill markets gaging in private discussions sure, Schenirer told attend- in places like Chicago, Boston, New York City. They use She reminded staff of a list of the ground floor in mixed-Rose restaurants) will soon use communities. Sacramenget the wrecking ball. "It's not to isn't on their radar. That's cussions on what could fill the

However, TI's hasn't said "yes" or "no" and the chain sites (unlike other bigger gro-There's not a TI's around the neighborhood and there's solthe business.

With Raley's on Freeport Boulevard soon to be expanding into the old Capital Nursery spot, Safeways on Al- on granting entitlements for hambra Boulevard and 19th Street, the Grocery Outlet on Riverside Boulevard and the Smart and Final on Freeport cy businesses generate civ-(near Florin Road), finding a ic pride and are part of our

fice was put up for sale for may be a tough sell to grocers, Peckam explained.

"(The grocery business) is a be because that property as very difficult business," Schea center needs to be bought nirer said in a phone interup by one entity so that it view after the meeting. "I don't think the site is appropriate for a store like Nugget or Safeway, While there are no plans for the larger chains. The space is anything specific at this point a little too small, but maybe we lice Captain Dave Pelet- for the old grocery store, can get a neighborhood gro-

After the meeting, neigh-

the public meeting. In her let-But, as Dean Peckam, from ter she wrote that SacMod with other interested parties. potential markets that neighbors highlighted during disgrocery store site.

"South Hills Shopping Center is a rare intact examhas a track record of reusing ple of 'Googie' architecture - a mid-20th century modcery stores). An added bonus: ern architecture style - and serves as a visual anchor to the South Land Park Hills id demographics to support neighborhood, which is also a rare and under-appreciated city of Sacramento asset.

"As the city of Sacramento focuses most of its attention new shopping centers, it is vitally important to remember our established ones. Legagrocer to go into the old Vic's community."



Shown here is what the old Vic's IGA looks like now. There's a sign that reads: "New business underway. Watch for improvements." Some neighbors have complained about the green fencing that wraps around the storefront. They say it has created a dangerous area for pedestrians





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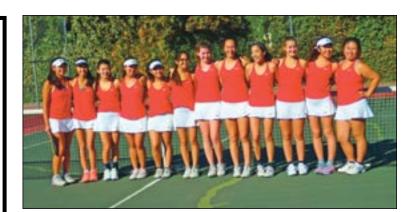
To our readers:

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season, filled with joy and happiness. If you have children or grandchildren who are writing their wishlist for Christmas, send a copy to editor@valcomnews.com and we will print them in a "Letters to Santa" special section. Letters will run in the Dec. 10 issues of the Land Park News. Send a photo of your little one along with the wishlist (not to exceed four wishes). Ages 5 to 10 only please. Deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Happy holidays from everyone here at Valley Community News.

Monica Stark





CKM Women's Tennis Comes So Close Again

in second in the CIF Sacal tournament, that seemed to be the school's best chance to win the section title for the next few years. and one out from injury).

But the 2015 Lady Lions Noguchi, Kylea Wong and far exceeded expectations with hard work, strong par-

When the CKM women's ent support, and team play. In tennis team lost a heart- non-conference dual matches, breaking match (5-4) at Be- CKM knocked off Del Oro, nicia High last year to come Rocklin, Cosumnes Oaks, Franklin, and Rio Americano. Joaquin Division II section- In league play, CKM dominated with a 10-dual match record (winning 90 of 90 "match points" possible).

At the season-ending con-At the start of the 2015 sea- ference individual tournason, the team began with- ment, CKM qualified for out 6 of its top 7 players all of the available postseafrom that great 2014 team son spots (Shirley Kwong (five gone from graduation and Daisy Lewis in singles, and Catherine Kong, Robyn

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Tennis:

Continued from page 4

Clara Ginnell in doubles). Freshman Daisy Lewis "blossomed" at the Metro tournament. She entered the sin- out Rio. gles draw unseeded because of her spot as the #7 player for the Lions. But in her second and third rounds she upset the #2 seed (by a 6-2, 6-0 score) and the #3 seed (coming back from a 4-6, 2-5 deficit), respectively. Daisy's 2014 squad, but the challenge sophomore teammate, Shirley Kwong (seeded #1 in the conference) qualified easily by rolling through her three for some revered starting se- team mom, Kate Judson, has rounds without coming close to losing a set.

In the team playoffs, CKM received the 2nd seed in the draw, based on its impressive season. And the Lions lived up to that ranking by first beating Bella Vista 5-4 in a suspenseful match that spanned two days. Then the Lions replicated its early season victory over Rio Americano with another 5-4 win in the playoff semifinal round. But the dream journey finally came to an end at Cosumnes Oaks High, where the 4th seeded team upset CKM -5-4 to take the section title.

Juniors Bethany Gen and Clara Ginnell delivered clutch performances in the two playoff wins by winning in doubles to secure the decisive 5th point in the team score. And Gen/Ginnell did their part to keep the Lions in the hunt against Cosumnes Oaks by getting their third playoff win. Sophomore Debby He and senior Taylor Goto were likewise stellar by sweeping all three of their postseason doubles matches in straight

sets. Sophomore Taylor Ishida chipped in with her own big comeback (down 2-5 in But the 2016 team will enher first set of the #3 singles match in the semi with Rio Americano) that enabled the

Despite the disappointment the section, the 2015 team enjoyed tremendous respect gion. The 2015 Lions carried only a few starters from the did not faze them. The funfilled (and work-filled) seaniors (Rachel Wagner; Catherine Kong; Robyn Noguchi, and Taylor Goto) and one

killer doubles teams to close

foreign exchange student (Julia Schwarzenberger).

joy a solid core of returning starters (Shirley Kwong; Taylor Ishida; Kylea Wong; Daisy Lewis; Clara Ginnell; Bethany Gen; Gigi Castaneda; and Debby He. Sophof another 2nd-place finish in omore Natalie Wong (who played #5 singles in 2014) will be back from the knee from schools around the re- surgery that forced her to miss all of 2015. The 2015 team also rostered a record 45 players, and many of these girls will add bite and roar for the 2016 Lions. Lastly, son was the farewell chapter the dedicated and ubiquitous signed on for the 2016 campaign (along with all of the 2015 coaches).

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CKM Hall of Fame dinner deemed a "huge success"

The fourth C K Mc-Clatchy Hall of Fame dinner on Saturday, Oct. 24, was a huge success with more than 425 inductees, friends, family and alums Twenty-nine attending. athletes, two coaches, and two teams were inducted this year.

Over 60 McClatchy students from present sports teams participated as waiters, greeters, and helpers during the event held at the Asian Sports Foundation Hall. Chef Don Lee and his staff again put out an excellent dinner.

Highlights of the evening included the induction of the 1992-83 section championship boys basketball team, present McClatchy teacher and coach Malcolm Flovd, and former teacher and coach Harvey Tahara.

Twenty-fourteen Hall of



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above left) Coach Harvey Tahara and 1992-93 Section Championship Basketball team. (above right) Inductees Tanisha Kemp, Robin Jury-Dobbel, Jennifer Kerns and

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ford introduced Tahara by pointing out that his teaching philosophy was not just to the athletes included land, Oregon. about winning but helping teenagers become successful adults. Five former players are now coaches and teachers and each lauded Tahara for providing them with a successful teaching and coaching philosophy.

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ers mentioned as mentors Shannon and Sean Padovan, Pat Honstein, Ellen Wong, and the late Mike school champions, Olym-Nishio. Athletes came pians, NCAA champions, members who actively parfrom all across the U.S. for the event: Andre Speech- Americans, high school and

Other McClatchy teach- more, Eric Harper-Dallas, successful businessmen and and Mark Sprenger-Port- women.

Other 2015 Hall of Fame inductees included high ic director Rob Feikert, and high school and college All Charlotte, North Caroli- college record setters, inter- event made over \$5,000 for na, Tanisha Kemp-Balti- national competitors, and the athletic teams.

A special thanks to Bob Sertich, McClatchy athletthe Restore the Roar Board ticipated in the event. Early estimates are that the

LPCA Holiday Sing-Along set for Saturday, Dec. 12

The Land Park Community Association proudly announces its second annual Holiday Sing-Along, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Eskaton Monroe Lodge, a senior independent living community, 3225 Freeport Blvd.

The Sing-Along is a multi-cultural, multi-generational

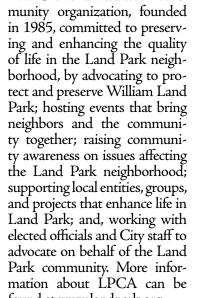
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event designed to spread holiday cheer through the joy of music. Together with the singalong, the afternoon will include performances by the children's choir at Holy Spirit School and Celtic Grey, a three-person Celtic band with roots in Land Park. The event is open to all. LPCA asks guests to please bring pairs of new (but unwrapped) socks (any size or style) and/or new or gently used coats to benefit My Sisters House (located in Land Park on Freeport Boulevard).

LPCA is a volunteer comfound at www.landpark.org.





Sacramentans enjoyed trip to Cuba with the California Automobile Museum

By MONICA STARK

(Editor's Note: The California Automobile Museum invites the public to participate in the 2016, dates to be determined people-to-people educational exchange trip to Cuba to see Cuba's classic cars. It's estimated that Cuba has approximately 60,000 automotive gems in almost-perfect working condition on the streets today. On the 8-day, 7-night trip, "Cuba's Classic Cars 2.0," folks will meet with the owners of vintage automobiles and exchange ideas to understand the level of ingenuity required to maintain these automotive treasures. See an upcoming issue of the Land Park News for a personal account of last March's trip written by Sacramentan Lou Dinwiddie.)

Earlier this year museum director Karen McClaflin, a Land Park resident, spoke with the Land Park News about their 8-day trip

last March, in which 37 travelers took flight with friends from the California Automobile Museum to Cuba, far exceeding the 20 expected to go. "They came from all over the country. We have a collective group based in Sacramento and some of the travelers are related to folks from Sacramento. They came from Maine, the Midwest. They were all interested in cars and car culture and what Cuba had to offer in terms of car classics," she said.

While in the United States you might see a couple classic cars go by, there in Cuba it's the opposite, as classic cars are all that exists. With just about anything there's always an exception, and in Cuba's case newer Asian cars do exist, though they are not commonplace. 'When a Kia or a Hyundai went by, we would say, Did you see that?" Karen said, adding that

See Cuba, page 18





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DUNNIGAN

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Duck season is here and so is the California Waterfowl annual dinner at Portuguese Hall

By MONICA STARK

their ducks in a row, California Waterfowl volunteers are gearing up for the 22nd annual dinner to ning. He continues to hunt be held this year at Por- and enjoy the season with tuguese Hall on Thursday, his family and friends. Soon

The dinner normally serves 275 people. For \$60 per person, diners get to enshrimp, prawns, caesar sal-

lands for the migratory wa- the end of January. I hunt nue that was owned by the

Primarily a duck hunt-As hunters are getting er, Pocket resident Manuel Perry is 84 years old and has been active in the organization since the beginhe will be going to Washington state with his son, Kenneth Perry. "I hunt in

only hunt what I eat. If I don't eat it, I don't hunt it. done different things to try I used to hunt elk and deer, to increase membership. but I don't do that much There are a lot of these dinanymore; it's too tough on ners that go on throughout the legs."

cally the dinner has been wetlands. about the same since its inception 22 years ago except for the fact the cost was a all migratory water birds California, but also Cana- lot lower, the menu might that benefit from the efforts joy hors 'd'oeuvres, tri tip, da. I try to hunt as much as have changed a little and it of California Waterfowl. possible during the season, was held at a much smallad, pasta and dessert. All and the season goes from er venue, the old Red Rose mission on the organizathe profits go to restore wet- the middle of October until restaurant on 43rd Ave-

primarily ducks and geese. boxer Joey Lopes. "We've changed the menu and have state of California, all for Manuel Perry said basi- the same purpose to restore

Perry reminds readers it's not just ducks and geese but

According to the stated tion's website, the California Waterfowl Association fectiveness." is a statewide nonprofit organization whose principal objectives are to conserve California's waterfowl, wetlands and hunting heritage. In order to fulfill that mission, CWA has carefully thought out the following

sufficient "Generate abundance and dispersion

"Protect hunting rights, shooting sports, the use of dogs, and related recreation activities for all Califor- ber it's a sell-out event and

tunity, recruit new hunters, p.m. (\$10 will get you unlimand teach skills and behaviors that will help sustain hunting into the future.

tance and benefits of hunt- visiting www.calwaterfowl.

funding for CWA to increase ble progressive tickets."



our capacity to achieve our

"Ensure the long-term viability of CWA and plan for its growth.

"Maximize volunteer ef-

In addition to the meal and drinks served at the Dec. 3 dinner, Perry said women and children under age 15 are eligible for special prizes. There are special prizes for females, like jewelry, plants, flowers. For kids, they get a hunting type of equipment. Kids could win bb guns as long as parents are with of waterfowl throughout them. They could also win California and the Pacific camping equipment, that Flyway. kind of stuff."

Portuguese Hall is located at 6676 Pocket Road. Rememonly 275 tickets are avail-"Expand hunter oppor- able. Cocktails begin at 5 ited bar drinks and entered into a raffle for a gun); dinner will be served family style "Communicate the impor- at 7 p.m. Register online by org. Purchase raffle tickets by "Increase membership and Friday, Nov. 20 and get "dou-

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Spread some holiday cheer to your older neighbors

If you're starting to think about ways to reach out to those in need this holiday season, how about taking a look around your own neighborhood and spread some holiday cheer to your older neighbors with a friendly visit, holiday treats, and maybe even a little help with minor household tasks? What could be more convenient and satisfying than doing good right where you live! And, who knows, the new connection might end up being good for both you and your older neighbor long after the New Year.

More people are living longer and choosing to stay in their familiar homes as long as possible. But this can lead to loneliness and isolation when people become disconnected from others due to limited mobility, loss of life-long friends or limited family supports.

Caring Neighborhoods is Older Adult Services' neighborhood-based program that aims to support safe and independent community living for the growing older population in Sacramento. The program supports healthy "aging in place" by promoting new intergenerational connections in neighborhoods throughout Sacramento.

If the holiday spirit moves you, you can reach out to an older neighbor on your own, by teaming up with your neighborhood association, or forming an informal Caring Neighborhoods group with one or two other neighbors.

To learn more about how you can connect with elders living nearby, contact mpcohen@cityofsacramento.org or visit www. agetogethernow.org.

Santas Needed!

Santas needed to fill holiday stockings for formerly homeless women and children: Local residents can bring smiles to formerly homeless women and children this holiday season by contributing to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Stocking Drive. The group is seeking 250 stockings and specific fillers for local infants and toddlers, children, teens and adult women. For the list of items needed, visit www.womens-empowerment.org. Those interested also can donate \$30 to have a volunteer elf fill a stocking or donate Target gift cards. Items are needed by Dec. 8 and can be dropped off at 1590 North A Street, Sacramento. For more information, contact Kate Towson at kate@womens-empowerment.org or 669-2307.

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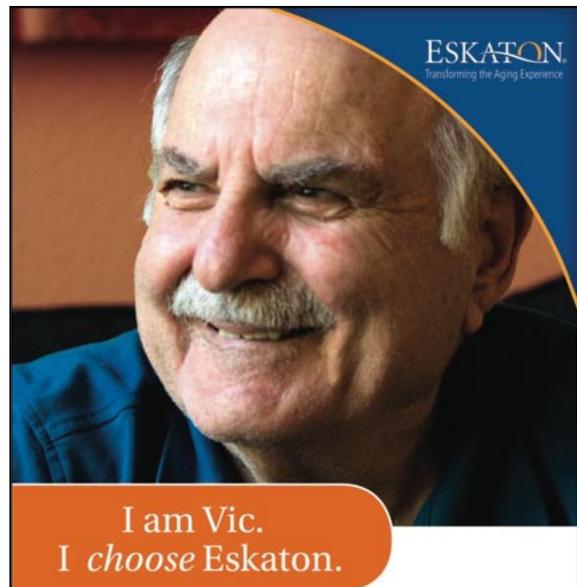


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Faces and Places:

Alice Birney Waldorf School Candlelit Path of Wonder

Alice Birney Waldorf School celebrated an evening of wonder on Friday, Oct. 30 with a candlelit path and magical stories and skits. There was also delicious food, Waldorf-inspired art, a petting zoo and a pumpkin patch.



Bob Lystrup (916) 628-5357 BLystrup@gmail.com CalBRE#00991041



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Photos and story courtesy of Fuel Your School

As part of Chevron's Fuel Your School program in collaboration with Donors Choose.org, Ms. Dempsey, a deserving teacher at Leataata Floyd Elementary School, received a surprise visit on Thursday, Oct. 22. Last year, teachers spent an average of \$485 of their own money to purchase classroom materials and supplies. The Fuel Your School program is helping teachers, like Ms. Dempsey, take a unique approach to make learning fun and engaging for their students, and get the classroom supplies needed to make it happen.

Instead of a typical math lesson, Ms. Dempsey's classroom will be getting new colorful and engaging supplies to help her kindergarteners begin to learn about fractions. Ms. Dempsey is one of the local teachers who submitted a classroom project request on DonorsChoose.org that has been funded through Chevron's Fuel Your School program. Fuel Your School is simple: From Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, when drivers fuel up with eight or more gallons at a participating Chevron or Texaco station, Chevron donates \$1, up to \$500,000, to help support public education projects in Sacramento County. Leataata Floyd Elementary School is located at 401 McClatchy Way.

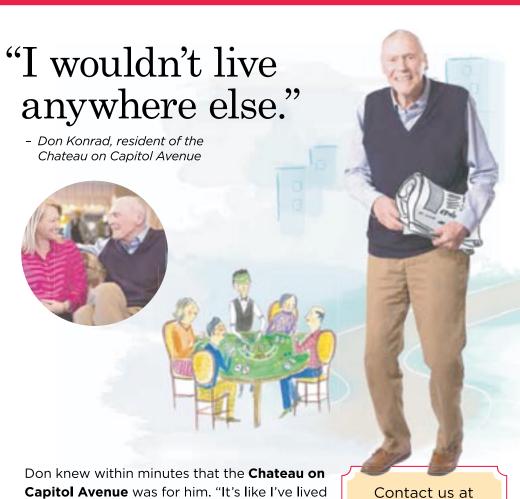


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Spotlight

The MPAA has rated this R

Open Road Films offers cast, bringing to the screen munity. to the 2001 investigation Cardin of the Boston Catholic Diocese by the Boston Globe Newspaper's "Spotlight" department. Specifically, they were uncovering the not limited to handful of amount. They also uncov-

ered an almost more worrisome aspect, the fact that this activity had been covered up by more than just the church, but by the ma-"Spotlight" with an all star jority of the Boston com-

Cardinal Law of Boston is evasive at best when asked about the issue. The Globe's new editor, Marty Baron, played by Liev tims, Mitchell Garabedi-Schreiber, has a meeting to abuse of children by priests see how the investigation within the diocese. As they is going. The reporters as- out discretely with key inbegun to dig further into sembled on the "Spotlight" the story, it became ap- team include Walter Robparent that this issue was inson (Michael Keaton), Ben Bradlee, Jr. (John Slatpriests, but a much larger tery of "Mad Men" fame), Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel Mc-Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo) who found much material for the story.

This movie is an intense study of journalists search- Mockingjay Part 2 ing for truth with an un- The MPAA has rated this PGcomfortable story. The 13 performances are all top notch. There is not one dull moment on screen. It commands your comlent writing and direction from Tom McCarthy comers is a joy to behold and great movie making. Mike Rezendes gets a top law-



Stanley Tucci, to help him formation.

I would be very surprised if this movie does not find some nominations from The Academy of Motion Picture Adams) and dynamic Mike time well spent with a ter- to form an army from the berific cast.

The Hunger Games:

At last, the thrilling conclusion to the long running team more valuable for naseries of dystopian Sciplete attention. The excel- Fi movies comes to a close ures. We've seen how Katwith "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2" from bined with these fine play- Lionsgate. You may see it in she'll not disappoint. either IMAX or standard presentations. We finally find out what will happen yer working with the vic- to Katniss Everdeen as re- case of the on screen imalized on the screen by Jen- age. This was further comnifer Lawrence. If you think pounded in my particular I'll give it away here, I am advance screening of this sorry to disappoint you, that picture as the auditorium late that the saga continues it was screened had a very right where it left off, just dark image because the xelike a classic matinee serial of the past, but instead of coming back to the the- Cinema Package image to ater each week, the studio has staggered the release of in being replaced. each episode to fully wet

your appetite for more. The cast, which photographed both of the "Mockincludes Josh Hutcherson, markable talents of the act-Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Julianne Moore, used and appear only mar-Jeffery Wright, Stanley Tucci, Elizabeth Banks, and 1970's screen legend Donald Sutherland as President Snow. I must admit, due to movie which ran two hours the nature of the original and fifty-one minutes. The principal photography be- version I witnessed for this ing done all at one time, to review has a running time see Philip Seymour Hoff- of two hours and seventeen man on screen, just as present as the rest of the cast

stands out since he has now an, played by the brilliant been dead for more than a year. The audience reaction when he first appears on screen is palpable.

Director Francis Lawrence then takes us through the final installment of the characters created by Su-Arts and Sciences. This is zanne Collins. Katniss tries leaguered districts that surround the Capitol to go get her man, President Snow. Eager to be at the forefront to let not get in the way of her quest, she gets an unexpected setback, as President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) finds she and her tional morale as media figniss usually lets nothing get in her way in that regard, so

This is the most violent of the series, and dark. Not only in theme, but in the would not be fair. I may re- in the multiplex in which non projection lamp throwing the DCP, or Digital the screen was way past due

I was disappointed further that two of the key performers from earlier in the series, Stanley Tucci ingjay" episodes at one time, and Jeffrey Wright, both reing profession, were under ginally. We'll have no way of knowing if they had greater participation in the first cut that was assembled of the

See Mockingjay, page 17

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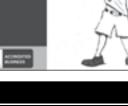
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Elizabeth Banks gets Jennifer Lawrence ready for her big conclusion- Photo: Murray Close- Lionsgate

Mockingjay:

minutes, and that is what has been released.

Odd too that in the USA, IMAX experience and in standard screenings, yet series in that format, explains the composition of set ups, which seem odd but would likely be imwho were heard in the loboverall they were generally pleased. This last installment brings needed resmemorable movie, make.

Brooklyn

The MPAA has rated this PG-

offer a sweet tale of an Irish immigrant of the 1950s with the movie "Brooklyn". for Irish girls. The two Flood, he leaves memorable Eilis (Saoirse Ronan) (pro- fall in love and the sweet moments of kindness. This nounced Seer-sha) is the romance of youth blos- was adapted from a novel lovely young lady who is soms. Suddenly and withsent to the USA for a bet- out warning, Eilis is called Hornby's screenplay is said ter life and opportunity than over to see Father Flood to take a slight departure her small Irish town may who relays the news that from the novel. This is a provide. After barely sur- her beloved sister has died. lovely, gentle way to enjoy viving the crossing in steer- She longs to go back to her another time and place.

in Brooklyn, Father Flood cal department store where temporary departure. she's supervised by a tough sica Paré.

slightly older women than will she do? select shots of cinematog- she, not unlike wicked steprapher Jo Willems camera sisters found in fairytales, takes its time to develop her Her stern landlady, Mrs. story, is rich in detail and viewed in standard format Kehoe (Julie Walters) of- fine performance and well fers moments of humor and worth seeing. I did have pressive in 3-D. I did see help in her own way, which trouble with the character this with fans of the series may charm you. Lonely in a of Eilis, as written, when new world, she writes reg- she could not choose what by following the screen- ularly to her sister back she wanted, or at least, took ing commenting about how home, a sister who doted a long time in coming to a some things were differ- over her more so that her decision. Ms. Ronan's face is ent from the book, but that own mother. Her sister had almost in every scene. Her staved behind to look after luminous blue eyes light their mother.

attends classes in bookshe is spotted by a passionate Italian-Ámerican Fox Searchlight Pictures boy, Tony (Emory Cohen), who becomes smitten with

age, an Irish Catholic priest mother, but Tony is hesitant to let her go. Only if (Jim Broadbent), arranges they marry before she defor her to have work at a loparts, will he accept her

She agrees, and once floorwalker, Miss Fortini, back home, finds that she this is being released as an played by "Mad Men's" Jes- is needed. A local merchant needs a bookkeeper. She stays at boarding A young rugby player, Jim internationally it will be house for young Irish wom- Farrell (Domhnall Gleein 3-D, the first film in the en in Brooklyn where her son), catches her eye and "green" big city life expe- she begins to see him, igcept in the USA. This ex- rience is mocked by two noring Tony's letters. What This movie is beautiful. It

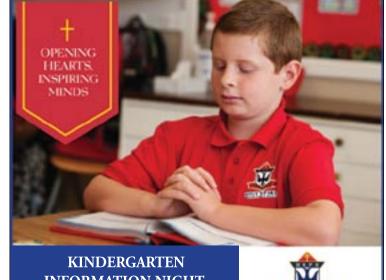
up the auditorium. Domh-She begins to adapt to nall Gleeson is consistently olution, but did not, for a life in Brooklyn, and also good, but only in for short while as her second fling. keeping. On her free eve- Young Mr. Cohen as Tony ning she goes to a less than has that old school sincerlively Irish dance. There, ity that makes him totally believable. Wonderful Jim Broadbent has been one of my favorite English actors for the past 30 years. With her. He tells he has a thing his few scenes as Father by Colm Tóibín, and Nick

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Cuba:

in Cuba, owning a car is a luxury for most. "People have to save for years and even then they're trying to do taxi rides. Most cars, at least two out of three, are available as taxis. They're all different colors; the most popular are Caribbean colors, which are nowhere near the original, but whatever it takes to get them noticed.

A culture set back in time, at least by American standards, the physical and cultural beauty of the Caribbean island was like a trip back in time to the travelers. "It is amazing, but too bad it hasn't been available for people to experience. It was like a time warp. Like you were in the '60s. Buildings had an art deco feel. There were cars from that era. It even had the sense ly increased in Cuba, Karof the Cold War with Soviet propaganda and bunkers. They had cannons in places where they were protecting themselves from pirates. They're a country that never graduated to the 21st century. Cuba is totally set back in time. I wasn't expecting it nal de Cuba had only one or or so one would think," Lou to that extent. The Caribbe- two floors that you could rent said.

Enjoy Life

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mosphere-- from the moment you got off the plane, it was very surreal," Karen said.

After the initial culture shock, the first thing on the agenda: Go straight to old Havana to get a sense and feel for everything Cuba. The travelers checked in at Hotel Nacional de Cuba, Cuba's most prestigious and famous hotel, which impressed most of the group. "The hotel was amazing. I love boutique vintage hotels anyway and it was up my alley. The hotel was pretty packed. We were fortunate we had a great view, amenities and comfort. There was such history and pictures everywhere. I stayed in the Frank Sinatra room that featured stars of the 1940s and '50s, including past presidents and

movie stars," she said. While travel has realen notes as a tourist attraction the country is nowhere close to what it needs to be if they open the gates completely. With about half a doz-

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to know them and their country." Lou said. Under the discipline of a local travel guide, the days for the travelers were usuous, but it was highly scheduled."We were going to go to spoke Cuban, knew the history, had contacts. If things

an and old cars, the whole at- a computer for about \$10 an hour, which Karen took advantage of out of necessity in order to send photos of the group's adventures to her employer. "We did have a hair dryer. We could flush the toilet. That was done probably recently, as they needed to get ready for Americans," she

The trip cost \$5,000 but it included everything even two alcoholic drinks per meal and weren't expected to tip. The only added expenses travelers accrued were the prices for souvenirs.

As soon as a trip to Cuba with the California Automobile Museum was announced, travelers Lou and Anna Dinwiddie eagerly jumped at the opportunity. "Cuba! Cuba? A trip to Cuba with the California Automobile Museum, do you want to go? I checked with my wife and we immediately decided ves and sent in our check. That was in August of 2014 and it was with some dismay that the U.S. government announced months laten hotels, for the most part er diplomatic changes with there was no internet in Ha- Cuba as it took some of the vana. Even the Hotel Nacio- adventure out of our trip,

> "The flight was thankfullv uneventful but for a startling custom of the Cubans soon as the tires hit the runway they launch into cheers and applause for a safe landing. I was not ready for that though it's not a bad custom. Cuban customs went easily and we joined our bus driver Junior and guide/interpreter

George for a week of getting nal parts to the older vehially filled with education- or modifying parts to make al, car-themed activities. them workable for these old-To Karen, it felt spontane- er American and Europethe auto museum, but it was it there. They make a part or closed; they had a water leak, modify it. The car club guys so what we ended up doing, are a little more sophisticatwe went to a dance compa- ed. They manage to finagle ny that performed for us in- and have really original cars." stead. Things often got shift- As souvenirs, Karen said the ed, and thank goodness for travelers brought back spark our tour guide who is orig- plugs, gauges. "We crammed inally from Cuba. She came our suitcases with things like over in the '60s. She might that, those hard-to-fabricate have been 12 (years old). She nicknacks."

Speaking about the car cruise and show that they par- director@calautomuseum. fell through, she was on the ticipated in, Karen said they org.



phone and made other plans," she said.

While most of the Cubans don't speak English, Karen said they are very friendly and so happy to see Americans. "They know basic (English words), like 'hello.' When we would say 'California,' they would say 'California' and then hug us."

When they toured Ernest Hemingway's estate and toured a neighborhood where tle Austin Healey that was folks are restoring one of his cars, children rushed out to see the Americans. "We were cars. It was adorable. I liked celebrities. We were movie stars in Cuba. Even though there was a language barrier, American 1950s and 60s cars, we didn't feel any animosity," she said.

Naturally for this group of travelers, amongst some of on board. It seems that as the most enjoyable parts of the trip included cruising in convertibles, visiting with local car club members and parable to get those either." ticipating in a car cruise and

Karen said the group met intense car collectors who set out searching for origicles. Explaining the contrast between the car aficionados owner, she said for most, they an vehicles. "Since they can't import from us, they make

had everything from a Model T to a Chevy Malibu. "One of the cars had been owned by President Bautista's wife. (The event) was fun and well kept. It was fun to talk to the guys. We'd ask them, 'How did you get this car?' For the most part, they found a relative who helped them (import) parts."

Karen said her favorite car during the trip was a litowned by one of the car club owners. "I like the little sports it because it was different. Most of them otherwise were so it was unique to see little sports cars from England. There were also a lot of Soviet cars, which look like old Datsuns because since the mid '80s, since 'The Fall (of the Soviet Union), they haven't been

Beside all the car culture experience, Karen said she loved all the cuisine and being able to go into homes. "We had a couple of just amazing moments."

Lou's wife, Anna, summed up the trip as follows: "It was compared to the average car a unique trip. I would do it again, but I wouldn't go back, ended up making the car parts not because it was Cuba. I don't know. I just want to stay in the states. You could tell it's not a welcomed subject, but more people who are critical should go on a trip like this."

The California Automobile Museum will take another trip sometime next April and will cover three different places and will be accompanied by the A Lo Cubano Car Club for a total of eight days.

This car club is featured on "Cuban Chrome" on the Discovery channel. There is a waitlist you can get on. Please contact Karen McClaflin at

CALENDAR

ation to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

Little Hats, Big Hearts looking for newborn and preemie knit hats

Now until Ian. 15, 2016: Calling knitters crocheters and loom knitters of all ages. The American Heart Association Sacramento Chapter is calling for handmade little red hats in preemie and newborn sizes. Hats need to be completed and delivered to the Sacramento Chapter Office located at 2007 O St., 95811 no later than Friday, Jan 15, 2016. "Little Hats, Big Hearts" is a nationwide campaign of the AHA, bringing awareness to the babies who are born with heart ailments and heart defects. All hats received will be distributed locally in February 2016 as part of Go Red Month. This event is also being hosted on Facebook as "Little Hats, Big Hearts" for Elk Grove and Sacramento. Enjoy being part of this special project. Participants in Elk Grove will have designated drop-off locations to be announced in the Elk Grove Citizen and Facebook. For more information, contact Teresita Valadez at teresitagabriela@yahoo.com.

Santas needed to fill holiday stockings for formerly homeless women and children

Local residents can bring smiles to for merly homeless women and children this holiday season by contributing to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Stocking Drive. The group is seeking 250 stockings and specific fillers for local infants and toddlers, children, teens and adult women. For the list of items needed, visit www.womens-empowerment.org. Those interested also can donate \$30 to have a volunteer elf fill a stocking or donate Target gift cards. Items are needed by Dec. 8 and can be dropped off at 1590 North A Street, Sacramento, For more in formation, contact Kate Towson at kate@ womens-empowerment.org or 669-2307

The Sacramento Traditional Jazz

Society (STJS) monthly music event Every second Sunday of the month, STJS has music at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., from noon to 5 p.m. Each month STJS has a different bands, there is three different rooms to listen to music. Nominal fee for members is \$8; non-member price is \$10.

Nar-Anon meeting for families and friends

The group meets to learn about drug abuse, share problems, encourage the addict to seek help, replace despair with hope, improve the family attitude, help regain your self-confidence. For more information, call the First United Methodist Church at 446-5025, ext. 101. Meetings are Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 2100 J St.

Rotary Club South meeting

The Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets at noon for lunch every Thursday at Iron Grill, located at 2422 13th St. (Broadway and 13th Street). Rotary is one of the largest service organizations in the world dedicated to community service both locally, and internationally. Please call JR Springer at 425-9195 for additional information.

These exercises use the principle of chi flowing properly throughout the body to maintain the equilibrium of vin and vang. Regular practice of these forms will develop better balance and flexibility, gain strength. promote deep relaxation, and improve health. This beginning class will also learn the 24 Yang Style Tai Chi and Yi Jing, a traditional Health Qi Gong. Pre-registration and prepayment required or \$7 drop-in fee at the door. Class will be held on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 pm at ACC Senior Services. 7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

Widow persons monthly buffet Widowed Persons Association of Califor-

iday Spirit of Giving Food Drive. The day nia, Newcomers' Buffet and Social is open also includes free arts and crafts activities to any and all widows and widowers, the and a puppet show. Puppet show tickets are third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. The buffet will be held in the private dining For more information, visit fairytaletown. room at the Plaza Hof Brau, corner of El org or call 808-7462. Fairytale Town is lo-Camino and Watt Avenue, cost varies as the cated at 3901 Land Park Drive. choice is from a no-host buffet menu. There is no charge to attend the social other than **Relles Florist DIY Class** the meal chosen. For more information. Nov. 28: Christmas Wreath including your call 916 972-9722. Widowed Persons Asown decorations. Learn how to make a sociation of California, Sunday Support, is Christmas-themed Door Wreath that can open to any and all widows or widowers, ev include your own decorations, \$50 each perery Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the meeting son. Limited class size, must register in adroom of the WPAC office, 2628 El Camivance, www.rellesflorist.com; sales@rellesno Avenue, Ste. D-18. Enter from the back florist.com: 916-441-1478: 2400 I St parking lot. For more information, call 916 972-9722. Saturday, Nov. 7, Widowed Persons Association of California Workshop, DECEMBER "Coping with the Holidays," 2 to 4 p.m., the doors open at 1:30 p.m.. A second ses-**Sacramento Senator Lions** sion will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 7 to club will host the 3rd Annual 9 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. The work-**DandeLion Arts and Crafts** shops will take place at 2628 El Camino Dec. 5: Sacramento Senator Lions club will Ave., Ste. D-18. Enter from the back park-

November

call 972-9722.

Indian Arts & Crafts Holiday Fair

ing lot. For more information or to register

Nov. 27-28: From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., guests will enjoy shopping for unique, hand-crafted items such as jewelry, basketry, handpainted gourds, dolls, holiday ornaments and much more. This is the perfect chance to meet and support talented native artisans from all over California while also learning more about Native American culture. While special activities are free, regular Museum admission applies (\$5 for adults; \$3 for youths ages 6 to 17 and free for kids five and under). For more information about these events and activities or the State Indian Mu seum in general, please call 916-324-8112 or visit www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum or www.cihcfoundation.org.

Crocker holiday artisan market Nov. 27-29: The Creative Arts League of

Sacramento is partnering with the Crock er Art Museum in bringing attendees an ortunity to shop for distinctive, oneof-a-kind, high-end modern gifts at the an nual three day Crocker Holiday Artisan Market. This one-of-a-kind holiday market will be in East Sacramento at the Scot tish Rite Center. Free parking will be available for attendees as well as six rooms to shop from. Vendors will be showcasing and selling functional pieces such as unique glass works, textiles, ceramics, paper, paint ing, sculptures, jewelry, fiber arts, metallurgy and woodworking. More than 100 artists 3 p.m. Free admission. All profits are used to support community projects. Event information at SenatorLionsEvents@gmail.com Sacramento Concert Band's free

and their original works have been careful-

ly juried into this special event to provide at-

tendees with an exciting, varied and elegant

shopping experience that is only presented

in the Sacramento region. This event is fam-

ily friendly offering holiday festivities such

Santa, holiday music from local musicians,

well as the opportunity to meet and engage

with each designer and artist. Scottish Rite

Center is located at 6151 H St. Hours for

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. Cost for Crocker and CALS members

is \$3; non-member adults are \$6. Students

Free admission day and canned

Friday, Nov. 27: From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

the day after Thanksgiving, Fairytale Town

canned food item for donation to the Sacra-

host the 3rd Annual DandeLion Arts and

Crafts show at the Sacramento Buddhist

Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. from 9 a.m. to

food drive at Fairytale Town

as picture opportunities with a Victorian

Holiday Concert:

Dec. 7: Enjoy music from Mozart to Gershwin with a little Sousa in between at Sacrafood from Ambrosia Cafe, gift-wrapping, as mento Concert Band's free Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave. in Carmichael. The Sacramento Concert Band, a community the sale are Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, band under the direction of Grant Parker. is embarking on its 48th season. After intermission and a raffle for homemade teddy bears and wall hangings, jump into the and seniors (over 65) are \$3. Parking is free. holiday spirit when you hear season favorites such as "Fantasy on a Bell Carol", "The Christmas Song" (Chestnuts Roasting on a Open Fire), and "Sleigh Ride". The concert is free of charge, but donations to feed the hungry will be accepted. For more informaoffers free admission to families who bring a tion, please contact Grant Parker, Band Director, (916) 691-7632 mento Food Bank & Family Services - Hol-

Sam Brannan Middle School -

Parent-Student Visitation Days Dec. 8, 10; Jan. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14: All visits begin at 8:30 a.m. To schedule a visit please call 264-4350 x1001. All 6th grade students and their parents are invited to come explore the Sam Brannan campus, visit classrooms and meet our outstanding teachers and students. Plan to experience a day in the life of a Sam Brannan student. Come and see why Sam Brannan should be your choice for middle school! Sam Brannan Middle School is located at 5301 Elme Way, 95822: Sambrannan@scusd.edu

Balance, mobility and coordination

Dec. 9: Learn a new way of thinking (the Alexander Technique) used to improve you balance, mobility, and coordination. This class is for English-speaking seniors who are able to sit, stand, and walk unassisted. Some floor work included. There will be handson guidance from the instructor. Dress com fortably .Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$54 required. No drop-in. Class will begin Wednesday, Oct. 7 through Dec. 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334

Park City. For more details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

Capitol Pops holiday concert

Dec. 10: The Capitol Pops Concert Band wraps its 18th season with a free, open to the public holiday concert at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 5811 Walnut Ave., in Orangevale. Under the baton of Director Kurt Pearsall, CPCB's one-hour performance will include traditional holiday favorites, seasonal musical hits and carols. Voice and instrumental soloists also will be featured in this family-friendly holiday event. Christ the King Lutheran Church is the band's rehearsal site. Attendees are invited to donate a new or gently used coat as part of the national One Warm Coat effort to provide coats to needy individuals throughout North America. The San Francisco-based organization has been organizing coat drives since 1992, donating more than 4 million coats since then and currently supporting more than 3,000 coat drives each year. Financial contributions to the program also will be accepted. For more information on the Capitol Pops, visit www.capitolpops.org or its Facebook page, or call (916) 725-5214.

Jingle bell run/walk

Dec. 12: More than 750 people will bring hol iday spirit to Sacramento on Saturday December 12th, when they "jingle all the way" to Crocker Park for the Arthritis Foundation's annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk event. This festive annual fundraiser aims to fight and cure arthr tis, the nation's leading cause of disability. The annual holiday-themed event will start at 7:30 a.m. and will host walkers and runners alike donning their most festive apparel - everything from bells on shoelaces to full holiday costumes This 5K is sure to spread smiles, holiday cheer and a winning spirit. Taking place in more than 100 cities across the country during the holiday season, the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis raises funds to support the Arthritis Foundation's life-changing tools, resources, science and advocacy initiatives. To learn more and register for the Sacramento event, visit www.jbr.org/sacramento or contact the Arthritis Foundation at 916-368-5599. To learn more about the fight to conquer arthritis and the Jingle Bell Run/Walk, visit www.arthritis.org/JBR.

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COZY NEW ORLEANS FLAIR

Cozy alcoves, leaded glass built-ins and a whimsical staircase showcase this 3 or 4 bedroom home steeped in character and charm! 3 bedrooms plus bonus den/study, renovated bathroom and kitchen with stainless steel appliances and DCS gas range. Walking distance to park \$475,000

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288



SOUTH LAND PARK

3 bedroom 2 bath with hardwood and parquet floors, slate entry, and stained glass front door. Bonus room for an office or hobby room. Updated master bathroom & kitchen, Private backyard, with a pool, backs to Reichmuth Park. \$389,900

LEIGH RUTLEDGE 612-6911 BILL HAMBRICK 600-6528



LAND PARK CHARMER

Spacious layout, wood floors, large living room with coved leaded glass window, arched doorways and stylish décor. 2 bedrooms with remodeled bathroom, formal dining room, large kitchen, separate family room with lots of windows, backyard BBQ and big deck! \$449,000

ERIN STUMPF 342-1372



ELEGANT LAND PARK

3 bedroom 2 bath, you will love the classic features such as coved ceilings, beautiful wood floors, and arched doorways. Spacious layout with a separate living room and family room, formal dining room, remodeled kitchen with nook, lovely brick patio! \$599,000

ERIN STUMPF 342-1372



IT SPARKLES

Spacious, 3 bedroom home in the Crocker/Riverside Elementary School boundaries. Newly refinished hardwood floors and fresh interior and exterior paint! Other features include a charming formal living room with fireplace, a formal dining room, several new light fixtures, and a swimming pool.

KELLIE SWAYNE 206-1458



BRENTWOOD VILLAGE

Convenient Brentwood Village 3 bedroom home. Cute as a button and ready for you to start making memories. Beautiful hardwood floors, a cozy fireplace and a skylight in kitchen to brighten your day! Inside laundry room and spacious backyard. Attached garage. \$229,500

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



COZY FREEPORT MANOR

Lovely refinished hardwood floors throughout this cute 3 bedroom 1 bath home. Welcoming entry into living room with fireplace and dining area. Central heat and air conditioning and clean 1-car attached garage. Very cute! \$229,500

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



FABULOUS LAND PARK

Lovely updated 4 bedroom, 3½ bath home boasts a great room floorplan. Remodeled kitchen features Miele cooktop, double ovens, warming drawer and breakfast bar. Lovely family room with fireplace opening onto gorgeous treed and shady backyard with slate patio and pool.

CHARLENE SINGLEY 341-0305



CASTRO WAY

Spacious, charming 2 bedroom with old world charm and modern upgrades. Beautifully kept original built-ins, beveled glass and mirrors, secretary with original chair, high ceilings, box beamed dining room, rich paneling. Large master with walk-in closet. \$350,000

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495

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