

First week of school drives up traffic safety concerns

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t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

Publisher..... George Macko
General Manager..... Kathleen Egan
Editor..... Ryan Rose
Production Manager..... John Ochoa
Graphic Artist..... Ryan Vuong
Advertising Executives..... Linda Pohl
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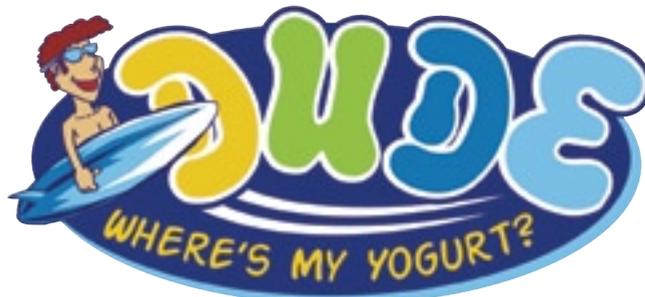
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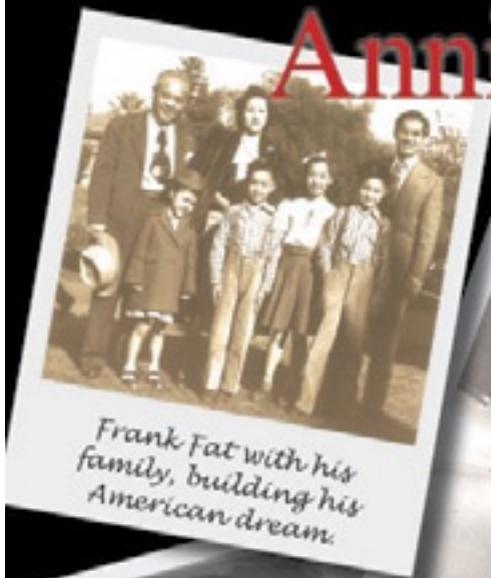
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Know your neighbor Centenarian is 'bridge' across generations

By ART GERMAN
Pocket News Writer
vnnnews@valcomnews.com

Duplicate bridge players at the Hart Senior Center in midtown Sacramento are heating up for their biggest party ever on Monday, Sept. 14, an event that will fall just two weeks before long-time bridge director Paul Sheridan actually marks his 100th birthday.

South Land Park resident Sheridan will receive honors and accolades at the center from bridge players, friends and notable city officials for his four decades of service to the bridge program and his

generally inspiring approach to the game as part of his life in general.

More than cards

Bridge—particularly duplicate bridge—sometimes provokes noisy disputes among the players, but Sheridan has made it a rule never to allow any of that in the games he supervises.

"I have always expected everyone to be respectful to all other bridge players," he said. "Bridge is a highly competitive game, but we all make mistakes and we can't take them out on the other players."

Bowing reluctantly to the weight of his years, Sheridan stepped down as director a year ago, but he continues to play at the senior center weekly, partnering with his

successor as the program's leader – Joe McCormick. The two, with help from other participants, work together to prepare the room for the bridge games and distribute cards and other materials to all players.

Duplicate bridge differs from ordinary party bridge by requiring the players to preserve the hands they're dealt and pass them on after each round to the next team, who then play with the same hands as their predecessors at the table. In this way, the scores are based on points awarded for actual results with the same hands that others hold. Poor scores can't be blamed on poor cards.

I had my first encounter with duplicate bridge on a

See Centenarian, page 5

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Centenarian: Still going strong

Continued from page 4

cruise ship when I was a total novice and was assigned to an emotional man who went bananas when I led from a king, and loudly accused me of being an idiot. The bridge director rushed over, and offered to relieve my partner by volunteering to make me her partner. But I declined and spent the rest of the cruise doing things other than bridge.

Sheridan, admired by all for an unflappable spirit of fair play that has remained intact over the years, admits to having had spats with players on occasions. He recalled that one involved a man who was ejected after emphatically calling Sheridan a "liar." The action was quickly upheld after a hearing by the senior center director.

He also keeps up with another long-time non-bridge diversion—bowling—playing regularly and maintaining an average that was chalked up recently at a very respectable 133, especially for someone in his 90s. He was the first president of Clubhouse 55, a bowling league set up by South Land Park Bowl on Freeport Boulevard in the early 1970s.

The game of life

A native of Oakland, Sheridan graduated from UC

Berkeley and embarked on a 40-year career as an engineer for the state Division of Highways, rising to the level of principal engineer before retiring in 1971. He was assigned first to the Marysville district office and later to state headquarters in Sacramento. In 1964, he and his wife Eleanor bought a brand-new ranch-style home on 13th Avenue where he still lives by himself. His son and three daughters make their homes outside the Sacramento area; one of them, Paula, a chemist, currently resides in Japan.

Eleanor became seriously ill in the mid-1990s, and had to discontinue playing bridge. She died in 2000.

For more than 10 years after Eleanor fell ill, Sheridan's bridge partner was College Greens area resident Dorothy Johnson, a widow just one year younger than him. She died two years ago and Joe McCormick has taken over, both as Sheridan's partner as well as the duplicate bridge director, the role that Sheridan had held for many years.

Approaching the age of 100, Sheridan has adapted to the cyberspace age by setting up a small computer room annex where he keeps in touch with numerous friends and relatives.



Local resident Paul Sheridan will mark his 100th birthday at the end of September. He is a well-known bridge player and active member of the community.

He also maintains a weekly log of his day-to-day life, e-mailing copies to his correspondents and fielding responses to the many who contact him regularly.

These letters augment a 20,000-word biography that he entitled "Memories" and sent to family members around the country.

These days, after falling off a ladder in his garage and having two hips replaced, Sheridan finds he has many friends who help him in Sacramento and he also can still take care of himself.

"I may dip into a lot of frozen dinners," he said. "But it's still doable."

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Peek into the past

Lake Greenhaven is one of the Greenhaven/Pocket area's most unique features

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

Among the many unique features of the Greenhaven/Pocket area is undoubtedly Lake Greenhaven, the body of water that was developed as the center point of a private residential area.

It is certainly not every resident who can step into a personal beach-like resort with fishing and boating in their own backyard, but for residents of this area, such a place lies directly behind their own back doors.

Oasis in the Pocket

The Pocket News' own Linda Pohl recalls moving into this area from the East Coast in 1968.

"Here you are in the middle of the city and you have this oasis and it's quite a conversation piece," said Pohl, who inherited the house from her late parents. "What I've done to my house is I've created a resort. You walk in and there are these big tropical plants and there are umbrellas in the house and you're looking out at white pipe railing and you see water, so you have this feeling like you're almost on a cruise ship."

Pohl said that she was fortunate to have the opportunity to move to such a unique place as a teenager attending nearby John F. Kennedy High School.

"People (at Kennedy High) thought, 'Oh my gosh,' once they found out I lived there," Pohl said. "First of all, I had this quirky little accent, because I used to talk with a little bit of a New Jersey accent. I was a Jersey girl, so here they got this person who is a little bit different and now they find out I live across the street by a lake with a beach. That was all novel to the kids, too, because they just had backyards with fences. It's just a really nice place to live, because you're like on vacation all the time."

Beachfront property

Within a close vicinity of Pohl is another resident of the area Bernard Kitt, who purchased property along the water in 1965 and six years later moved into his house, which he personally built himself.

An artistically minded, creative man, Kitt, who previously resided in the Little Pocket area by Seamas Avenue, explained why he chose to build his own two-story home.

"I couldn't find someone who would build the type of house I wanted, so I built it myself," Kitt said. "I moved here with my family (his wife, Anne, and children, Patrick and Bridget) and I was a marriage counselor and I worked from home, so I designed the house with my business in mind. It's a really



Few backyards in the Greenhaven/Pocket area offer such scenic views as this view from the Lake Greenhaven backyard of Bernard Kitt.

Cover photo by Pocket resident Lauren Pohl

neat place, because before you walk in, it just looks like a regular house."

But of course, any house in the Greenhaven/Pocket area with beachfront property is no regular house and then Kitt takes his house a few steps further with its unique, custom architecture and use of creative entryways and window views and an indoor swimming pool with an accompanying large statue of the Greek mythological god of wine, Dionysius.

And that is obviously only the beginning, since Kitt also lives along Lake Greenhaven. Just outside Kitt's back door is a large deck, which Pohl describes as "the best in the neighborhood."

The deck, which extends into the water directly across from



Lake Greenhaven provides rare Greenhaven/Pocket beachfront property for its residents.

a small, palm-studded island, is enhanced with a variety of features, including palms, flowers, large umbrellas, tall wooden posts dressed in Christmas tree-type lights, tables, chairs, a large American flag, which hovers above the deck, and a full-sized wooden seagull replica.

Coming from clay

But creating a unique environment in the Lake Greenhaven area was no new concept, as developers L & P Land and Development, Inc., headed by Harold Parker and Kermit Lincoln, proved while designing and beginning to establish the area, which now includes 197 single-family homes, 44 condominiums and many apartments.

Throughout the years, the company underwent several changes, as Kermit Lincoln withdrew from L&P and Harold Parker continued operating the business and completed the original Greenhaven 70 master plan.

Shortly before Harold Parker passed away, his son, Bill Parker, began working in the business and he continued developments from the north to

See Lake Greenhaven, page 7

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Lake Greenhaven

Continued from page 6

the south parts of the Pocket, culminating with the Riverlake development, a similar project to the Lake Greenhaven project. The Riverlake project features about a 32-acre lake as its centerpiece.

About the time the Riverlake project began, Jim Parker joined his brother in the company, which became known as Parker Development Co. in the early 1990s.

Historically, a large section of the Lake Greenhaven area, which was eventually part of the much larger Greenhaven 70 development extending from Greenhaven Drive to Florin Road to the Lakecrest shopping center, appeared much different and was known as the "Clay Pit."

Pocket area native Dolores Greenslate and her husband Norman are the longest-term residents of the Greenhaven 70 development, having purchased their home in July 1962.

Dolores Greenslate recalls seeing the clay pit as early as 1927.

"I remember seeing the clay pit as early as when I was 3 years old," Dolores Greenslate said. "It was a lake where the drag line used to dig out the clay and the clay was used to make the bricks at the (Sacramento Brick Co.) brickyard."

The company, which had its headquarters at 1300 Front St., made the bricks that were used to construct many of Sacramento's early buildings, including some of the buildings in Old Sacramento, part of the State Capitol and the Memorial Auditorium.



Pocket News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Boating is a popular pastime for Lake Greenhaven residents.

Kitt said that the brickyard, which was founded in 1881 and continued its operation for about a century, was also important in supplying bricks for reconstructing part of San Francisco following the 1906 earthquake and fire.

Creating a lake

Although the lake existed during the brick company years and was a popular fishing spot, Jim Parker said that Lake Greenhaven, which covers about 65 acres, had a much different appearance in its earlier times than it does today.

"Lake Greenhaven was dredged and created with 'fingers' (to appear as it does today)," Jim Parker said.

Among the altered features of the lake are its shape and water level, which is controlled by wells that pump water into the lake as needed.

Karen Minor, administrative assistant of the Lake Greenhaven Association, recently praised the many improvements made to the lake and community throughout the years.

"It is wonderful how the lake has progressed over the years," Minor said. "It's a very nice community."

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Safety traffic programs available for young kids

First week of school drives up safety concerns among parents, teachers

By ELIZABETH VALENTE
Pocket News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

For some elementary-aged kids, the first day of school can be thrilling, adventurous and a bit scary. The same holds true for their parents who fear more about their child crossing the street than they are about their kids fitting in and making friends on the first day. Several schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District have already begun classes and that means school zone speed limits are back into play and drivers must be cautious of far more little people out and about.

Lilly Maggy, mother to six-year-old Sophia and five-year-old Madison, loves the fact her daughters are going to St. Mary's Elementary School, located between 58th and M Street in East Sacramento, but worries for their safety.

"The school is right off of Folsom Boulevard, a major traffic area, and it's located in a residential neighborhood with little parking and crazy drivers," she said. "Sometimes a driver will speed down the narrow street and knock over a trashcan or clip a bush. It's a concern."

With no cross guards or flashing signal lights to alert drivers of kids crossing the street, Maggy is teaching her daughters the importance to look both ways and "up" while walking.

"They are young and at that age where they look down at their shoes when they walk because they know they have their parent or an adult leading them across a street," she said. "I make them look around and listen for cars and try to get them to be more familiar with their surroundings."

Concerns like these are not uncommon around the Sacramento residential neighborhoods. Principal Faye Sharpe, from Jedediah Smith Elementary School located off of McClatchy Way, wants to make sure her 200-plus K-8 graders know the proper way to cross a busy school zone area. Earlier in the year, one of her students was hit by a car while crossing into the school's parking lot. Fortunately the child suffered no major injuries, just a big scare. But that incident caused Principal Sharpe to look to the city's Department of Transportation for help.

"I heard about the city's 'Captain Jerry Traffic Safe-



The Captain Jerry Traffic Safety Program engages students at Westlake Elementary School.

Photo courtesy

ty Program' and that it is designed to teach elementary school kids about traffic safety, but in a fun and interactive atmosphere," explained Sharpe. "It involved two people from the program and they discussed the importance of school crossing sig-

nals, sidewalks, what to look for when crossing in front of a bus, and wearing a helmet when biking to school. It's terrifying to know one of your kids got hit and I don't want to see that happen again."

"The crosswalk safety part of the program focuses on 'stop,

look, and listen' before crossing a street, what the different traffic signals and pedestrian signals mean, the difference in the color of crosswalks, and where to cross if there is no marked crosswalk," explained

See Safety, page 9

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Safety: City looking at new school crossings

Continued from page 8

John "Bucky" Perez, Captain Jerry Traffic Safety Program Manager. "We want children to remember the traffic safety rules whether they are going to school or just walking to the store."

Maggy agrees that more traffic safety education is needed.

"I want more than just my kids to be aware, I want the drivers to be aware as well. Parents need to become more respectful and not speed down the road because they are late picking up their child or end up speeding off before the kid even has a chance to buckle their seat belt," said Maggy. "I don't want to see an accident happen because they couldn't come 15 minutes earlier."

Though managing a parent's use of driving time might be difficult to control, the Department of Transportation Traffic Engineering's Investigators and Engineers do work with residents on traffic safety concerns within the city. Plac-

es like Crocker Riverside Elementary School contacted the department and the city responded by installing traffic calming devices.

"Staff at Crocker Riverside Elementary School contacted us about a visibility concern with the pedestrian signal on Riverside Boulevard," said LoAnna Hernandez, traffic investigator, Area 3. "So we made changes to the signs and striping to make the pedestrian signal more visible to drivers."

Making streets safe

Traffic Engineering staff also worked with Principal Sharpe at Jedediah Smith Elementary School due to a concern with pedestrians crossing at 5th Street and McClatchy Way. The city installed crosswalks, signs, met with the principal on several issues including circulation of parents dropping off children, and presented the Captain Jerry Traffic Safety Program.

Concerned school neighbors called Traffic Engineering about students at Hiram Johnson High School crossing at various locations along 14th Avenue and not using the existing crosswalk at 69th Street. Staff investigated the concern and installed a crosswalk and signs at 67th Street which was found to be more convenient for the students to use.

The city is now looking at school crossing zones near David Reese School on Lindale Drive, Kennedy High School off of Gloria Drive and Florin Road, and Matsuyama Elementary School between Windbridge Drive and Rush River Drive.

For more information on the Captain Jerry Traffic Safety program and the Traffic Engineering Office call (916) 808-8300 or log onto the city of Department of Transportation Web site, www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation.



Photo courtesy

Lexi Hom, left, and Marisa Fong, right, show off the hair they are donating to Locks of Love.

A new 'do for a good cause

Two former Sutter Middle School, 3150 I St., girls recently cut their hair to donate to the Locks of Love program. The Pocket area residents both wanted to help children who had lost their hair to illness.

Both girls had talked briefly during the summer about cutting their hair. They decided to do it before school started. A new look for both girls, as they will be attending C K McClatchy High School, 3066 Freeport Blvd., in the fall.

They went to Great Clips, a participating salon that cuts participants hair. Participants must now send in their pony-tailed hair in a Ziploc bag in a padded envelope to Locks of Love.

This was Marisa Fong's second time donating her hair as she donated her hair in 2005. It took her 4 years to grow it back. Both girls had the required length of hair to donate. 10 inches is the minimum to donate. Both Fong and Hom plan on growing their hair and donating it again.

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Connecting with the City Council, the community

By **ROBBIE WATERS**
Sacramento City Councilmember
Special to The Pocket News

Pocket Coalition meeting

The next meeting of the Pocket-Greenhaven Coalition will be on Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m. We have two fantastic guest speakers for this meeting, both of whom were requested by Pocket residents at previous meetings. The first is Noel Eusebio, the city's resident anti-graffiti expert. The second is Jon Fitzpatrick, traffic engineer for the South Area, who will discuss options for dealing with neighborhood traffic concerns. Of course, the meeting is also an excellent forum to voice any other neighborhood issues that you may be interested in.

Neighborhood Resource Team

The next meeting of the NRT is Wednesday, September 9 at 6 p.m. at the

Pannell Center at 24th and Meadowview. We discuss neighborhood concerns in the police and code areas and meet with city staff. The Area 2 Community Partnership Meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Pocket/Greenhaven Friends of the Library

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library will be Thursday, September 24 from 6:30-8 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. The location is the library at Martin Luther King Jr. K-8 School at 480 Little River Way.

'The Soloist' author visits Sacramento

LA Times columnist and novelist Steve Lopez, author of "The Soloist," will be the featured author on Thursday, September 24 at 6 p.m. in the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, at the Central Library, 828 I Street. Admission is free and

doors open at 5:15 p.m. The Soloist is the One Book Sacramento choice for 2009. More information is available at www.saclibrary.org.

Toilet rebates winding down

If you are thinking about a bathroom remodel, or just getting a new toilet, take advantage of the rebates from the city for water efficient toilets. Currently, there is a rebate of up to \$175 for purchase of a toilet that uses less than 1.28 gallons and another rebate of up to \$125 for a toilet that uses less than 1.6 gallons. Save all receipts! The toilet rebate is probably ending in December of this year so now is the time to act.

How about a new washer?

There is also a rebate for "tier 3" efficient washing machines. Call 311 for information about any of these rebates.

Help break the record

Interested in helping break the City Council re-

cord for email subscriptions? Already subscribed but frequently forwarding to others? Help District 7 pass the 1,000-subscription milestone for our email blasts. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming more informed about community events and happenings, sign up for District 7 email alerts on the District 7 website. If you need help, call my office at 808-7338.

Keeping our quality of life

Are you concerned about lacking upkeep on nearby properties? Suspect criminal activity at a certain address? Have a vehicle parked on the street for more than the 72-hour limit? Call 311 and report the activity. Or call my office at 808-7338. You can remain anonymous. We need you to partner with us, neighborhood associations and neighborhood watch groups to send the message that we are a family-friendly neighborhood and crime and/or blight will not be tolerated!

Need more information?

My office sends out helpful community information on an e-mail list. To join the list, visit the main city Web page at www.cityofsacramento.org and use the "e-mail alert" link to sign up.

Boards and Commissions

For a list of openings on city Boards and Commissions, check the city Web page at www.cityofsacramento.org and click on the "Boards & Commissions" icon on the left side of the main page for updated information throughout each month or call the City Clerk's Office at 808-7200. Applications can be found on the Boards and Commissions page.

Councilmember Waters' mailing address is City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, Calif. 95814. Phone is 808-7338. E-mail is rwaters@cityofsacramento.org. Web site is www.cityofsacramento.org/council then choose "Robbie Waters."

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Special column: Hodapp out and about

The sights, sounds and smells of the California State Fair

By **BENN HODAPP**
Pocket News Columnist
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

Growing up in the Sacramento area, the late summer has always meant three things: my birthday, the start of the school year and the California State Fair.

It seems like this year there was less hoopla about its arrival than normal. Usually the radio is full of cartoon cows and over-the-top farmer caricatures telling us to "get on down to Cal Expo" and what not. Maybe because of the economic situation they figured they didn't want to spend the money to advertise.

However, I went this past Sunday and it looks as though the fair is doing just fine despite the times. There were people all over the place. Sure, it probably helped that it was 80 degrees and breezy, the sort of day Sacramentans can only imagine in their most fevered dreams come late August, but I was surprised nonetheless.

First, I walked through the buildings with all the animals. A sheep voiced its displeasure at being sheared, a horse whinnied spectacularly and a Corgi sat alone behind bars. It was somewhat odd to see a little dog there, but it was getting plenty of love from the passersby. It was not an especially captivating time to walk by the pigs, as roughly 90 percent of them were sprawled out on their sides, completely oblivious to the fact that I wanted to talk to them and perhaps coax an oink. Selfish pigs...

As you can imagine, the aroma of the animal tent is not terribly pleasant, which is why I was shocked to see so many people eating in there. I don't want my curly fries mixing with that particular set of notes, but more power to those people I suppose.

Among the attractions at the fair this year is Harley, a pig that weighs more than 1,000 pounds and stands four feet tall. I paid the



2009 fair photos courtesy the State of California.

See State Fair, page 30

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Faces and places

Friends of Buckthorns unite

Fans and friends of the now closed Buckthorns café gathered Aug. 29 at the coffee shop's former Promenade location to honor the once popular local hangout. A well-liked meeting place that closed earlier this year, Buckthorns was known for its welcoming atmosphere and hospitable customer base. This loyal group of Buckthorns patrons made sure that memories of the time-honored Pocket café – and the friendships made there – do not fade away.

Everyone seems to have a Buckthorns memory – tell us your story. E-mail the editor at ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Photos by Stephen Crowley.




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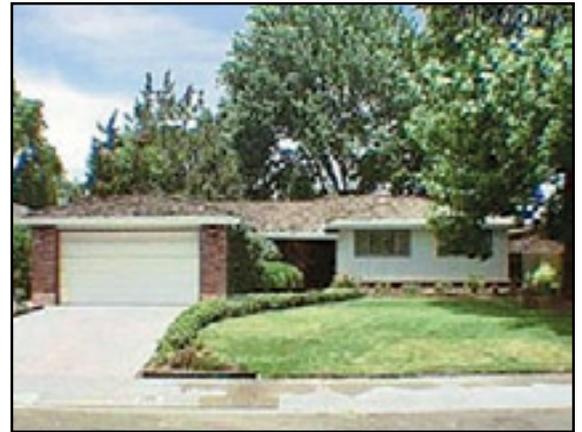
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ELAINE OWENS 747-8479



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Solid 4 bedroom home features newer HVAC, dual pane windows, granite counters, and plantation shutters. Just 2 blocks from Carolyn Wenzel school. Roof approx 5 yrs old and the bocce ball court is almost new! Enjoy home grown vegetables from your own yard. Wall between family & living rooms removed to create great room concept. Pest report available. See www.6901FlintwoodWay.epropertysites.com \$359,000

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Stylish and elegant. Spacious open living areas look out to the private gated courtyard area with beautifully landscaped grounds that surround the home. The remodeled kitchen features newer cabinetry and appliances, granite counters and tile floor. Expansive walls of brick frame the living room fireplace. Established neighborhood is two blocks from Land Park and public transportation. See www.windermere.com \$475,000

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Photo courtesy St. Anthony's Parish

St. Anthony community festival Sept. 12

Special to The Pocket News

International cuisine, entertainment, games, and activities for the entire family are all part of the 16th annual St. Anthony's Parish Community Festival, 660 Florin Rd., on Saturday, Sept. 12 from noon to 9 p.m.

Admission is free and you can sample unique foods from around the world including Filipino pancit, lumpia, and chicken adobo as well as German bratwursts, Irish stew, scones, and soda bread. Also available for tasting is Italian rigatoni, sausages, and pasta Alfredo along with Mexican tacos and burritos, Greek cuisine grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, snow cones and a variety of desserts including make your own waffle cakes.

Continuous live music and entertainment is featured throughout the day on the Main Stage. There are carnival style games where you win tickets in exchange for prizes along with a bounce house, cake spin, book booth, wine spin and a Country Store featuring new and handmade crafts and gifts. This year's raffle features a 32-inch LCD HDTV along with cash prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200.

Money raised goes toward the St. Anthony Parish Memorial Center Fund that has supported a youth basketball league for more than 400 area children, dances and games for middle school youth, and community dinners for persons of all ages.

For more information, call the church at (916) 428-5678 or visit www.stanthony-sacramento.org.



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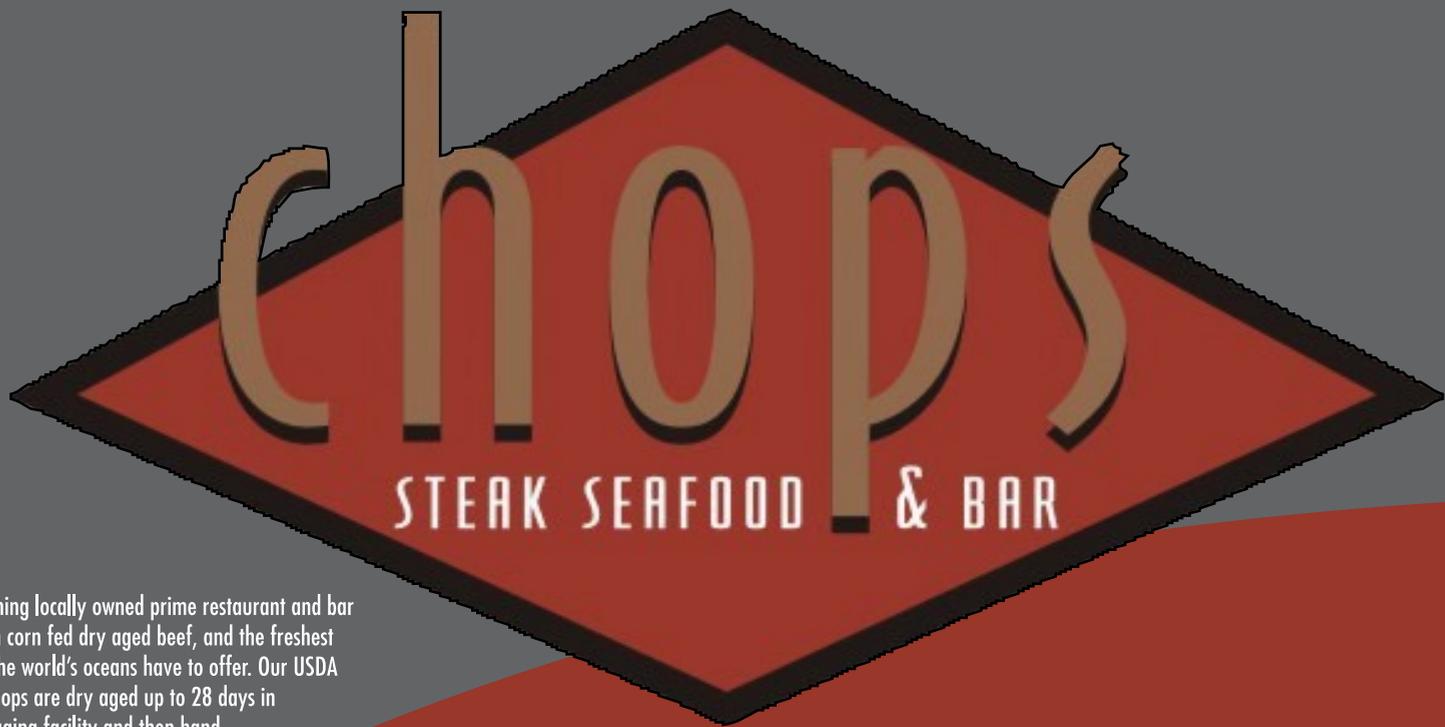
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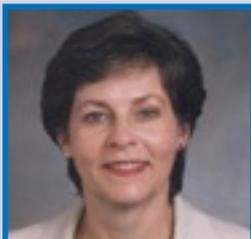
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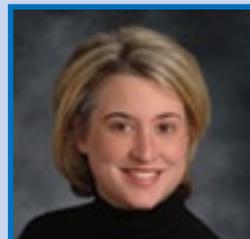


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The second half of life

Exercise – Not a bad word when you're 50 and better

By **DARBY PATTERSON**
Pocket News Columnist
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

Respected studies support the notion that exercise is one of the most important factors in aging well. It is, in fact, critical for some people such as diabetics and women dealing with the onset of osteoporosis.

Even armed with this information, many people find exercise about as appealing as a root canal. "I'd much rather curl up on my couch with a book," said one woman in my Mini Med School class. "Am I the only one who hates exercising?"

Certainly, there are aspects of exercise that are off-putting. For example, I don't like going to a gym. After a certain age the specter of spandex, bared flesh and raging hormones isn't an appealing scene. The good

news is that people don't have to join a gym to be healthy. There are many alternatives that allow us to get the benefits of exercise without the costs of memberships, specialized equipment or stretch pants.

The other good news is that physical fitness is not a preoccupation of only the young. According to Jeffrey Tanji, associate medical director of Sports and Medicine, UC Davis Health System, the prevalence of exercise in people over the age of 50 is higher than it is for the younger population.

For health maintenance as we age it's important to get aerobic exercise, resistance exercise and activities that enhance balance. All three of these important areas can easily be integrated in activities throughout a week and, contrary to certain information, it doesn't require 90 minutes a day to main-

tain fitness. The sports and medical experts at the UC system – noted as one of the finest in the country – say that all three activities combined require no more than three hours a week. Also, exercise doesn't have to happen in one, extended session. According to Dr. Tanji, a study showed that three 10-minute sessions yield the same benefit as a solid half-hour. "It's additive and it's cumulative," he said.

Aerobic exercise requires the greatest investment of time but is a mere 1.5 hours a week if we adhere to the three-hour-a-week formula! It's simple to fit that in by walking, swimming, bicycling, climbing stairs – just about anything that raises the heart rate a bit but does not push a person to exhaustion.

Resistance training is effective if done for an hour per week. Think Pilates, yoga,

tai chi, even dancing. Although it may not seem like it at first glance, these activities that sound like "meditation and stretching" are also resistance training. Done correctly, tension is applied to muscles gently as the body moves into poses and positions. Muscles are held and relaxed. At the same time, we keep our bodies training for balance – an extremely important element of aging well. In addition to one or more of these activities, resistance training should include a half hour of lifting some kind of weights to maintain muscle strength.

As we age, the goals of exercising change. We are no longer being competitive and pushing our bodies to new frontiers. We are working to maintain strength and balance so that we can remain active into our older years.

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The end of the war: A soldier's journey back home

By ART GERMAN
Pocket News Columnist
vcmnews@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part special story series on writer Art German's experiences at the end of World War II. After returning from fighting in the European Theater and hearing that Japan had been hit by the world-changing "A-bomb," Art, his friend Don Garfein and the rest of the members of the 95th Division were informed that they would serve as an "army of occupation" in Japan. The added tour of duty was a heavy weight on already weary soldiers and Art and Don felt that something must be done.

Several units in the 95th refused to continue training. Reports of problems with the 95th were even mentioned in the media. Finally, the entire division turned out for an assembly on the Camp Shelby parade grounds where the division commander, Major Gen. Harry L. Twaddle (that was indeed his name), stressed that orders would have to be followed whether we liked it or not. He added that anyone in the vast assemblage would be welcome to meet with the general in person if there was anything we wanted to discuss about this.

"Let's ask for the meeting," Don and I agreed later that day. We officially made the request through channels, and the next day a command car was dispatched to pick us up and bring us to division headquarters.

For PFC's German and Garfein, the prospect of an encounter with General Twaddle had about the same impact of being summoned into a meeting with God himself. I was trembling, and Don – the braver one of us two – agreed to do the talking.

The general, resplendent with his two stars and multiple battle ribbons, was seated at his desk and invited us to have our say as we stood at attention.

"Sir," Don said, as best as I can remember it. "We are concerned because we have already seen considerable combat in Europe while there are many, many soldiers who

have not been overseas at all. It would only be fair to send some of these soldiers to Japan, rather than us who have already done our duty."

At this, General Twaddle stood up and let us have it.

"Men, in this man's army," he said, "if we get orders to go to Japan, I am going to Japan. And you are going to Japan. Understand? Dismissed!"

Surprising orders

Don and I spent one more unhappy night in the barracks. But the sun must have been shining the next day, though I don't remember that. After morning chow, a message was sent to all units announcing that the plans to ship the 95th Division to Japan had been called off. Instead, we were informed, the division was going to be dismantled, and personnel would be mainly assigned to army posts near their homes.

The cheering went on all day. Within the next week, I was on my way from Mississippi to Fort Dix, N. J., less

than an hour by train from New York. They gave me a warm welcome at Fort Dix where they would urgently need good typists – like me – to provide the paperwork for the expected onslaught of men awaiting discharge.

Don, sadly enough, didn't fare as well. He ended up in Ft. Knox, Ky. But within six months, he and I were both home for good anyway.

Coming home

Strangely, we both ended up in California after the war. I studied journalism at Stanford on the GI Bill, while Don attended the University of Georgia. Eventually he became a press agent for Hollywood stars—a career that was right up his alley. I worked for a few newspapers around the state before ending up in Sacramento more than 40 years ago as a state information officer and part-time writer for The Sacramento Bee.

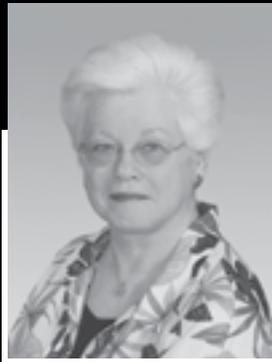
Don – who has changed his surname to Garrett – and I are both long-retired now,



Don Garfein, left, and columnist Art German became life-long friends after meeting in basic training during World War II.

but we still keep in touch and see each other once or twice a year. Don likes to drive around the state and he was around here last June for my birthday, where we also visited Raley Field for a River Cats night game. I also took him to meet Felice Rood, the Pocket area turtle maven who came here from the Bronx, N. Y., and has established a very successful Sacramento Turtle Society.

Somewhat, to me, the dozens of turtles in Felice's garden seem symbolic that life goes on, despite the memory of the August 1945 attacks that claimed untold number of lives – victims numbered in the hundreds of thousands – along with the possibility that something like that could happen again. That is the ultimate threat that might well face all of us down the line.



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Historic Land Park area landmark now in its 50th year

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

For a place that is five decades old, Fairytale Town sure has kept its youthful luster.

Fairytale Town, a historic Land Park landmark cherished by many people of all ages, celebrated a major milestone Aug. 29 as the popular children's park turned 50 years old.

Fountain of youth

One individual who has many memories about the creation and early years of the non-profit Fairytale Town, which is located on city property at 3901 Land Park Drive in William Land Park, is longtime Fairytale Town board member Shirley Plant.

Plant said that the road to the creation of the nursery rhymes and fairytale-themed Fairytale Town with its live animals such as turtles, piglets, rabbits, a Shetland pony, a donkey and a cow and small play sets began "more or less through Clarence Breuner."

"(Breuner) wanted to do something for the children of Sacramento and particularly to associate them with farm animals and other things and

sort of give them information that they might not otherwise have," Plant said. "(Breuner) asked Helen Mering (who was working public relations for Breuner at Breuner's furniture store in Sacramento) to seek out some projects. She researched some children's parks – and there were several around in areas surrounding Sacramento – and she suggested that that was the way to go."

Plant added that Breuner anonymously gave Mering \$3,000 for the purpose of seeing that the then-projected \$50,000 project was initiated.

Mering then presented the idea to the Sacramento Junior League, who took on the project.

Among the members of the project's investigating committee was Plant, who said that she spent much time in the community determining what the feasibility of the project would be and what mission and future it would have in Sacramento.

"In due course, we settled all those questions and we went forward with it and got the anonymous funding from Breuner," Plant recalled.

A major step toward the creation of Fairytale Town

Original site was East Portal Park

Junior League Chairperson Beth Grebitus originally announced that a site for the proposed children's park had been selected at East Portal Park at 51st and M streets in East Sacramento.

Only four days following the announcement of the proposed site, residents living near the park began gathering signatures in opposition of the playland's potential location.

These residents cited that increased traffic, lack of parking and additional noise caused by the children's park would be detrimental to the neighborhood.

During the following two days, the East Portal Park Association was formed and more than 500 signatures of those opposing the proposed site were gathered.

Less than a month later, the city council parks and recreation committees recommended that Fairytale Town be located at William Land Park.

The recommendation led to the council's decision to accept the proposal.

- Lance Armstrong

occurred on Sept. 30, 1955, when the Junior League presented a proposal for a fairytale-themed children's park, similar to Children's Fairyland in Oakland and Pixie Woods in Stockton, be built in Sacramento.

Although much of the excitement of such parks at the time were stirred by the 1955 opening of Disneyland, these pair of parks actually predate Walt Disney's famous adventure land.

During the council meeting, councilmember Frank Seymour said, "I think (the

children's park proposal) is a splendid idea. I have watched with considerable interest the development of similar projects in other cities and have hoped some organization would take hold of the idea here."

The proposal, which was outlined and presented by Junior League Chairperson Beth Grebitus, proved to be a success as the council agreed to give the project "full consideration."

Grebitus was later named president of the Fairytale Town community corpora-

tion board, which first met at the Hotel Senator on April 12, 1956.

With the formation of this corporation, the Junior League withdrew from participation in the project.

City supports village

In an effort to secure additional public funding, a miniature model reproduction of the then-future Fairytale Town was created and displayed during the 1957 State Fair inside the Counties Building on the former Stockton Boulevard fairgrounds.

Included in the display were Cinderella's pumpkin coach, the Three Little Pigs, Farmer Brown's barn, King Arthur's castle, Hiawatha's teepee and a pirate ship. Overall, a children's theater and 16 play sets – most of which were designed by Georgianna Else – depicting nursery rhymes and fairytale landmarks and characters were scheduled to be completed prior to the park's opening.

The following year, The Sacramento Bee reported that about \$60,000 had been raised for the construction of Fairytale Town on a two and a half-acre site at William Land Park.

Leading this drive was Marge Reid, who had replaced Grebitus, who had resigned from her position as president of the Fairytale



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From left: Wes, Ted, and Henry

See 50 years, page 25

50 years: It is 'very much the same place that it was 50 years ago'

Continued from page 24

Town community corporation board.

Fundraising continued until the time of the park's opening and beyond, as Fairytale Town opened on Aug. 29, 1959, despite needing about \$10,000 dollars to meet its \$75,000 goal for completion. The total cost of the project, however, eventually reached \$107,000.

The park was officially opened following a ceremony, in which Reid handed a golden key to Mayor Clarence Azevedo, who officially opened Fairytale Town by walking across the moat bridge with local 3-year-old, Theresa Anne Michaels.

The following day, The Bee reported that within the first hour of the playland's opening, more than 400 adults and children had "steamed across the magic moat to enter the make-believe world."

For fun and family

Since this opening day when 5,692 children visited Fairytale Town, thousands upon thousands of children have arrived at this children's park, where countless fond memories have been born as many dreams have become a reality.

Plant estimates that at least 12 million children have visited Fairytale Town since its opening and added that it is enjoyable to see earlier generations of people return to the park as adults.

"We're on our fourth generation of children coming to the park and it's nice to see their parents and grandparents, who remember when they ran the crooked mile," Plant said.

Although many sets of Fairytale Town have remained virtually the same, the children's park has undergone various changes since its early years.

Among these changes are the additions of the Old Man in the Shoe slide in 1968, a roof addition to King Arthur's Castle in the early 1980s, the Safe and Super Halloween weekend in 1986, Jack and the Beanstalk in 1997, the renovation of Sherwood Forest in 2003 and the yellow brick road leading to

the stone archway at the entrance to the playland during the past two years.

And of course, one of the major landmark additions to the children's park was the placement of Humpty Dumpty atop the archway in 1962.

Fairytale Town Executive Director Kathy Fleming – who said that she prefers the title, "Fairy Godmother" – said that although the Humpty Dumpty of Fairytale Town never had a great fall, he has been stolen several times, but fortunately has made his way back home each time.

50 years young

In honor of Humpty Dumpty, Fairytale Town presented another Aug. 29 event, Humpty Dumpty's Birthday Party, which was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thinking back on the history of Fairytale Town, Fleming said that reaching the half-century mark at this "magical land for the kids" is a great achievement.

"It's really quite an accomplishment that we have made it this long," Fleming said. "But what's nice is it's also very much the same place that it was 50 years



Young children stand outside the main gate of Fairytale Town, which celebrated its 50th anniversary on Aug. 29.

Pocket News File Photo/Lance Armstrong

ago. And we invite everybody in Sacramento and beyond to come to Fairytale Town to help make our 50th anniversary the most magical anniversary it could be and to celebrate a community treasure."

For additional information about Fairytale Town, call (916) 808-7462 or visit the Web site www.fairytaletown.org.

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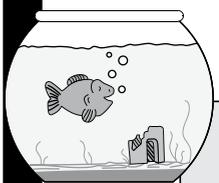
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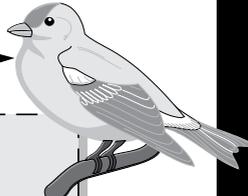
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CALENDAR

GET IN THE CALENDAR

Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost. There is no guarantee that events submitted will appear in the calendar. To ensure placement within the newspaper, please call 429.9901 to place an advertisement.

SEPTEMBER

Free pole walking clinics

Organized by Cure Arthritis Now, free pole walking clinics will be hosted Wednesdays (at 6 p.m.), Sept. 16 and 30, Thursdays, Sept. 10 and 24, and Friday, Sept. 18, at the Sierra 2 Community Center, 2791 24th St. There will be an additional clinic Saturday, Sept. 12, on Scripps Drive. Interested people need to call the group directly for times and specific locations, to pre-register and reserve the walking poles for the clinics. For more information, call 208-8700.

California State Library Show

National travelling exhibit "Louis Braille: Celebrating 200 Years of Braille." Born the same year as Abe Lincoln and Charles Darwin, Braille invented a tactile alphabet that shattered barriers for vision-impaired read-

ers. Exhibit continues through Sept. 25. Held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and Friday, Sept. 25. Closed Labor Day. Free. Lobby, Library & Courts Bldg. 2, 900 N Street, (916) 654-0640.

Straw into Gold

The Hart Senior Center will once again host the "Straw Into Gold" poetry writing workshop for Seniors. Led by Julia Connor, Sacramento Poet Laureate 2005-2009, this workshop offers an outstanding opportunity for seniors to hone their writing skills in a creative, spontaneous environment. The workshop will be held Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00, September 3 through November 12. Registration is required, but there is no cost for this workshop. Please contact the Hart Senior Center at (916) 808-5462 for more information.

Memory Seminar

A special memory seminar will be held throughout the month of September and into October, September 14 through October 5. Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Facilitated by Kim Winters, BSG, M.Ed. of the Primrose Living Fund. Located at Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street, Sacramento. No Charge. RSVP at (916) 808-5462.

Just Change exhibit opens

The collaborative art exhibition Just Change is open and will run through Sept. 22 at Beatnik Studios, 2421 17th St. Artists of multiple mediums come together to showcase their view and take on this theme of "Just Change." Artistic interpretation on many levels.

Past Tents exhibit opens

"Past Tents: The Way We Camped" is a humorous excursion through one of our favorite pastimes, exploring camping in California from post-Gold Rush times to the mid-1900s. Through three exhibit themes - Round the Campground, Hitting the Trail, and Open Roads, Open Fires - visitors enjoy contemporary prints of rare historic photographs and objects from the collections of the California Historical Society and the Bancroft Library. The Sacramento History Museum invites all to enjoy this exhibition beginning Friday, Sept. 4, closing January 3, 2010. The Sacramento History Museum, operated under the auspices of the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation, is located at 101 "T" Street, Old Sacramento, CA. The museum is open every day (excluding major holidays) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone: (916) 808-7059.

SEPTEMBER 2

MENA Annual Membership Meeting

McKinley East Sac Neighborhood Association invites all members and interested residents of East Sac to join us for our annual meeting. MENA is a neighborhood organization that supports ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life in East Sac. The event will be held at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Wednesday, September 2 at 7 p.m. Info: 447-1722 and www.eastsac.org.

SEPTEMBER 3

Latino Dance and Culture Group

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

SEPTEMBER 4

Organic Gardening

The Organic Gardening Club of Sacramento County will meet at the Carmichael Park Administration Building, Room 1, 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, at 10 a.m. The program will be on "Organics - The Why and How" by Jack Hertel, Master Gardener and owner of Foothill Organic Growers. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

SEPTEMBER 5

Symbology & Secret Societies Tour

The square and compass, three links of chain, a pick and shovel...what do these objects mean? Are they really connected with secret societies? On this Saturday morning tour of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery you'll learn the meanings behind these and other symbols. The

tour commences at 10:00 am from the Cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street. Visitors may park across the street from the 10th Street Gate and meet at the cemetery entrance. Held under the auspices of the City of Sacramento Division of History & Science, this tour is presented as a public service by the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. For tour information please call (916) 448-0811. Tours are free though donations for the restoration of the cemetery are greatly needed and appreciated.

Military Widows

The Society of Military Widows, Sacramento Chapter No. 5, will meet on Sept. 5, at the Lions Gate at McClellan Park at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and presentation on "Awake the Humor in Your Life" by Cindy Sample, Writer and Lecturer. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

SEPTEMBER 6

Elks Soccer Shoot

The Elks annual Soccer Shoot is just around the corner. Bring your kids ages 7-13 to some light soccer competition in the "Five Goal Contest," and the "Grid Goal Contest." Shoot your way to a chance to win medals, raffle prizes, and move on to the District Soccer Shoot! Do all of this while enjoying a free barbeque for the whole family! The event will be held at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. For information, email pat@kombatsoccer.com.

McKinley Song Circle

McKinley Children's Song Circle with the Shadechasers will perform for free Sept. 6 at 3-4:30 p.m. in the Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra Blvd. Families welcome. Brand new songbooks for singers available. For more information and directions, call 531-4110. The Shadechasers is a local folk group of 10 members playing Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Malvina Reynolds, Raffi, and other singable family music suitable for children's activities. We sing and dance, and encourage families to sing together whenever they can. Now we have a new songbook with about 60 songs to share with our group.

SEPTEMBER 7

McKinley pool open

From a donation provided by the McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association and in cooperation with the city of Sacramento, the McKinley Park pool will be open on Labor Day. The pool will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission: children and teens up to 17 are \$1; adults are \$2.

SEPTEMBER 9

Health fair

The YMCA will host a Senior Health Fair. We are offering our 8th annual Health Fair

Sept. 9, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. This event is free to the public and to our YMCA members. We have 50 agencies coming that will have information relating to housing, nutrition, legal and safety issues. Our agencies include but not limited to Social Security, Natural Food Coop, Mercy Hospital and Canine Companions. The Agency for Hearing will have their van here to provide free hearing tests, there will be blood pressure checks and flexibility test also provided. The YMCA is located at 2021 W Street, the corner of 21st and W Street.

California's Admission Day

Celebrate California's 159th birthday with cake and ice cream provided and served by members of the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association. Held at the State Capitol, 10th and L Streets, festivities begin at 11:30 a.m., run to 1 p.m., and include the rousing music of the Sacramento Banjo Band, with Capitol Museum volunteers dressed in early 1900's costumes on hand to greet visitors. Free admission. For more information, call (916) 324-0333.

Author event

Blinded by an awl at age three, Louis Braille invented a tactile alphabet that liberated generations of vision-impaired readers. Celebrate Braille's 200th birthday with biographer C. Michael Mellor as he discusses Louis Braille: A Touch of Genius. Free. W, 9/9, 2-4 pm, Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 9th St., Sacramento. Part of the exhibit "Louis Braille: Celebrating 200 Years of Braille," ongoing until 9/25. 9 am-5 pm, M-Th, and F 9/25. Free. Library & Courts Bldg. 2, 900 N Street, Sacramento. (916) 654-0640.

SEPTEMBER 10

Computer club meeting

The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on September 10, 2009 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA. The topic is: "Behind the Scenes at Capital Public Radio," presented by Tom Keller, Webmaster. A problem solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc., will follow the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our website at www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

National Health Federation

The Sacramento Chapter of the National Health Federation meets at the SMUD Auditorium (the old SMUD Building) on 6201 S Street, Sacramento. A free lecture, "Everything You Need to Know is in Your Breath" presented by Griffin Toffler, M.A. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

SEPTEMBER 11

Wine, Beer and Food Extravaganza

The Christian Brothers Alumni Association will host their annual Wine, Beer and Food Extravaganza Friday, Sept. 11, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Purchase tickets online at <http://cbhs-sacramento.maestroweb.com>. For more information, call (916) 733-3600 or visit www.cbhs-sacramento.org.

Dragon Fundraiser and Reception

The Asian Pacific Community Counseling, a non-profit agency, is having their annual Dragon Fundraiser and Reception on Friday, September 11, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Sacramento State Alumni Center. Catered by Town & Country/Splendid Gourmet Catering of Citrus Heights, the event will include hors d'oeuvres, wine and a raffle. Tickets are \$40 each and include one complimentary wine ticket. For tickets, sponsorship packages or donation pick-up, call Effie Shum at 916.383.6784 ext. 135.



'6' for Elks Lodge No. 6

Members of the Elks Lodge No. 6, pictured left to right, Don Puliz, Exalted Ruler Richard Cherry, Tim Mullins and Jim Irion show off an Armenian Cucumber in the shape of a number "6."

The Elks' Farmers' Market Gardeners grew the cucumber and it curled to match the lodge number perfectly. The Elks Lodge No. 6 hosts a regular vegetable market open Sundays from 9-11 a.m. All the proceeds from the market go to a fund for a nursing scholarship.

COLLEGE AHEAD?

Two New Workshops – Plan to Attend!

September 16: "College Ahead – What Are My Options?"
(UC? CSU? Private College? Community College?)

September 23: "College Essays – What Do I Write?"
(What are colleges looking for? Writing strategies)

Sierra 2 Community Center

2791 24th Street – Sacramento 95818

7:00-8:30 pm

\$20/person or \$25/family

Marilyn van Löben Sels, Certified College Counselor
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SIGN UP TODAY!

Fine art show

Held at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, 2425 Sierra Blvd., is an artist reception from 5:30-7 p.m. The event will feature a demo and talk and watercolor pointillism paintings by Judy LewLoose. For more information, visit lewloosewatercolors.com or call 984-4936.

Geranium Society meets

Carmichael Geranium Society September meeting will be at the Carmichael Community Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, September 11, 10 a.m. to noon. The speaker will be Andrew Nieman from Windmill Nursery discussing "Planting for Fall Color." Visitors welcome - no fee.

Senior Spelling Bee

Seniors: Come test your spelling skills in a fun and friendly spelling competition. Help us bring in the new school season with consonants, vowels, and education. Please join us Friday, September 11 at 12:00 p.m. Want to come early for a delicious lunch before the competition? Make reservations by noon on Wednesday, Sept. 9 by noon. \$2 Donation for 60-plus years and a \$5 Fee if under 60 years. Spelling Bee is free. Please sign-up in advance to join the Spelling Bee. Where: Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sacramento. Info: 808-5462.

SEPTEMBER 12

BBQ, Beer and Boogie

Hosted by Carmichael Oaks and Kiwanis Club of Carmichael and featuring Swing-Masters band, this special event held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. will benefit Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk 2009. Tickets for food only is \$12, tickets in advance are \$25, and \$30 at the door. RSVP by Sept. 5. For information, call 944-2323.

16th Annual Community Festival

International cuisine, entertainment, games, and activities for the entire family are all part of the 16th annual St. Anthony's Parish Community Festival (660 Florin Road) on Saturday, September 12 from Noon-9 p.m. Admission is free and you can sample unique foods from around the world including Filipino pancit, lumpia, and chicken adobo as well as German bratwursts, Irish stew, scones, and soda bread. Also available for tasting is Italian rigatoni, sausages, and pasta Alfredo along with Mexican tacos and burritos, Greek cuisine grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, snow cones and a variety of desserts including make your own waffle cakes.

Fe Gallery Artist Reception

Ceramic artist Aiyana Pearson, multi-media artist Robyn Slakey and wood/metal artist Steven Florman will join Fe Gallery Resident Artists Stephen Lyman (metal art) and Sheena Wolfe (fused glass) for a Second Saturday Reception Sept. 12 from 6-9 p.m. Sheena Wolfe will be doing a mask sculpture demonstration beginning at 7:30 p.m. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th Street (north of Folsom Blvd., corner of 65th and Elvas), East Sacramento. For more information about the artists and the gallery visit www.FeGallery.com or call, (916) 456-4455. Daytime gallery hours are currently from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon. The current show will run throughout September.

Book warehouse sale

The Friends of the Sacramento Public Library are sponsoring a big Fall Warehouse Sale on two consecutive Saturdays, September 12 and September 19. Public sale hours will be noon to 5 p.m. on September 12 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 19. A preview for Friends' members only is scheduled for 9 am to noon, September 12. Prospective members may join at the door for \$15 and attend the preview. The sale will be held in the Friends' warehouse, at the rear of their Book Den store, 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, between Power Inn Road and Florin-Perkins Road just south of 14th Avenue. More than 75,000 paperback and hard-bound books, videos, CDs and more will be sold at prices ranging from \$.25 to \$2.00. All proceeds, after expenses, benefit the Sacramento Public Library.

Art show at ADR

A show called "Art and Booze" will be held at AD Reprographics on 2500 Franklin Blvd. from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event will feature vintage pin-ups, pulp and old movie prints. For more information, visit www.morethanposters.com.

SEPTEMBER 12-13

61st Annual Show and Plant Sale

The Joan Coular - Sacramento Branch of the American Begonia Society is holding its annual judged show at the Garden and Arts Center. Each year well over 100 entries are on display and this year there will be over 1,000 plants for sale. The event is Saturday, Sept 12., from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center,

3330 McKinley Boulevard. There will also be educational talks and displays as well as begonia experts to answer your culture questions. Admission is free. For further information or an article for publication about growing begonias in Sacramento, please call Paul Tsamtsis at 524-3013

SEPTEMBER 13

Portuguese Historical Society Gala

The Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society will hold their 30th Anniversary Gala Banquet on Sept. 13 at the Sacramento Portuguese Holy Spirit Society SPHSS Hall, 6676 Pocket Rd. The reception begins at 1 p.m. and a luncheon with live music starts at 1:30 p.m. Tickets to the event are \$35 and include New York Steak and scampi, Portuguese wine and dessert. A table for 10 can be reserved for \$300. For information on purchasing a ticket, call Ralph Nevis at 421-7161.

SEPTEMBER 16

Free real estate seminar

Do you qualify for a loan modification? Visit the seminar held at 6 p.m. and hosted by Cook Realty at 4305 Freeport Blvd. RSVP to Deb Luna or Anthony Carrill at 833-6266. For more information, visit www.cookrealty.net.

Genealogical meeting

The Genealogical Association of Sacramento (G.A.S.) will hold their regular meeting at 1 p.m. in the Belle Cooledge Library at 5600 South Land Park Dr. They will discuss the GAS library book collection and share our "Summer Genealogy Discoveries" Questions please call Melanie Howard 383-1221

SEPTEMBER 17

Latino Dance and Culture Group

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

Greenhaven Mother's Club

The Greenhaven Mother's Club is holding its Fall Kick-off meeting on Sept. 17 from 7-9 p.m. New member inquires call 916.955.2105 or e-mail info@greenhavenmothersclub.org. Current members go to Bigtent for details.

SEPTEMBER 19

Authentic Hawaiian Luau and Dance Extravaganza

Luau and Dance Extravaganza is at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. Tickets for Luau and Show available from \$30-\$45 and must be purchased in advance. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. and the feast runs from 4 to 5:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., the Dance Extravaganza by Ka Pa Hula Kanoehuaoka halema`uma`u`o Kalama begins. For ticket information: www.onipaa.net or call (916) 344-7270

Early Educators History Tour

Early educators will inform and entertain you on this Saturday morning tour at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery! This tour, presented by docents from the Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum, will feature the lives and experiences of early educators in Sacramento. The tour commences at 10 am from the Cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street. Visitors may park across the street from the 10th Street Gate and meet at the cemetery entrance. Held under the auspices of the City of Sacramento Division of History & Science, this tour is presented as a public service by the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. For tour information please call (916) 448-0811. For tour information please call (916) 448-0811. Tours are free though donations for the restoration of the cemetery are needed and greatly appreciated.

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St. Francis Spaghetti Feed

The St. Francis Episcopal Church in Fair Oaks is holding its 10th annual Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will feature its annual talent show, dinner with wine and silent auction. The church is located at 11430 Fair Oaks Boulevard. Tickets to the event will be sold at the door and will cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. For additional information, please call 966-2261 on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

See more Calendar, page 28



GALA OPENING
September 13th, 3pm

Trio Rose
Maquette Kuper, *flute*
Michelle Xiao You, *violin*
Natsuki Fukasawa, *piano*

Congregation B'nai Israel
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16th Annual Community Festival

Saturday - September 12th
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SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY CONCERTS
2009-2010 Season



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VIRSKY UKRAINIAN NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY - Sept. 24
SLAVYANKA A CAPELLA CHOIR - Oct. 31
ANTHONY & JOSEPH PARATORE - PIANO DUO - Jan. 14
HUTCHINS CONSORT - Feb. 18
GENE KRUPA ORCHESTRA & THE FOUR FRESHMEN - April 8

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FIVE PERFORMANCES JUST \$90 Adults; \$40 Students (high school & under)
Single tickets also available at the box office
30 days prior to performances for \$46.50

Bonus Performance - FREE - 4 ticket limit
"The President's Own", United States Marine Band - Oct. 16, 2009

After Sept. 8 tickets may be obtained in two ways:
Theater box office or send a self-addressed stamped envelop to:
Marine Band Tickets
The Sacramento Community Concert Assn.
P.O. Box 254825 • Sacramento, CA 95865
For more information, visit: www.saccca.org or call: 916-974-1357

Calendar

Continued from page 27

SEPTEMBER 19

Opera Interludes at Borders

Sacramento Opera presents Opera Interludes at Borders Books & Music, Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 7 pm, 2339 Fair Oaks Blvd. This free, informal gathering features a live performance by soprano Carrie Hennessey and pianist Narmina Sultanova. Guests will hear excerpts from the Sacramento Opera's upcoming productions of The Elixir of Love and La Traviata. Lecturer Robert Coleman will provide entertaining commentary. Be sure to enter the evening's drawing for two free opera tickets. For more information about the Sacramento Opera, contact 737-1000 or info@sacopera.org. For more information about the Borders Books & Music store, contact 564-0168.

SEPTEMBER 19-20

Benefit plant sale

Sunburst Projects and the Benefit Plant Sales announce: There will be plant sales

held in the covered parking area behind the Gifted Gardener at 18th & J Streets, midtown Sacramento from 9am to 3 pm both Saturday and Sunday. A wide selection of perennials plus some winter growing CA natives will be available.

SEPTEMBER 21

Free computer class

Back to School! Yes it's that time of the year, but going back to school is not just for kids anymore. Come learn how you can be a part of the computer age. Chandra Dawson, our SeniorNet Supervisor, will be discussing our computer classes, and doing 1 on 1 evaluations, to see what class will best suit your needs. Please sign-up in advance. Monday, September 21st at 1:30 p.m., Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street, Sacramento. Cost: Free. Info: 916-808-5462.

SEPTEMBER 25-30

Book Fair

With budget cuts in California, we don't want our children to suffer in the area of literacy. Fremont Nursery School is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in order to increase the availability of books for children in the Sac-

ramento community. The events are Friday, Sept. 25, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, Sept. 28 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 30 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and will be held at Fremont Nursery School Gymnasium Classroom, 5770 Carlson Dr. For information, call 498-9537.

SEPTEMBER 26

Carmichael's Founders Day

Celebrating 100 years, Carmichael is hosting their Founders Day event at Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave. Opening Ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. Admission is free and the event includes an auto show, free inflatable jumping structures for kids, music and food, beer and wine. Fireworks begin at 8:15 p.m. For more information, call 485-5322.

Car show

Beverly's Annual Nifty '50's Classic Car Show is Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Marconi Avenue & Fair Oaks Blvd., in Carmichael. Admission is one new, unwrapped toy or toys for Beverly's Annual Holiday Angel Project. The event will feature music, food and prize drawings. Call (916) 402-7202 for more information, or e-mail topredvr1@aol.com. The Angel Project takes care of over 1,500 children each holiday season giving them blankets, filled stockings, stuffed animals and age appropriate toys.

Walk for Lupus Now

Walk for Lupus Now is the signature event of the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. The event is Sept. 26, at Southside Park, 2115 6th St. (near U Street). Check in at 9 a.m. Walk begins at 10 a.m. Parking available around the park. Participants will walk one mile or three miles. For more information, call 202-510-8937.

SEPTEMBER 27

East Sac Home Remodeling Tour

The East Sacramento Home Remodeling Tour, sponsored by Friends of East Sacramento, will be held on Sunday, September 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Featuring six remodeled homes, the theme for the

2009 tour is "Honoring Tradition, Making it New." While enlarging spaces inside, the homeowners have honored the tradition of the house. Tickets go on sale beginning September 1 and proceeds will go to support neighborhood parks and beautification projects in East Sacramento. For more information, call 452-8011 or e-mail eastsaclife@aol.com.

Taste of Land Park

The Land Park Community Association is pleased to present the 9th Annual Taste of Land Park, where residents of the neighborhood come together for an evening of fine wine, delicious food and community connections. The event is Sunday, Sept. 27 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on 17th Street between 11th and 13th avenues. Admission is \$30 in advance. Tickets will be available 2 weeks prior to the event. Purchase locations to be disclosed at a later date. Tickets are \$35 at the door. Over 15 Land Park food vendors and 20 regional wine purveyors. Complimentary bike valet provided by the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates. Musical entertainment by On Air, an eleven-piece power horn, classic rock band. Visit www.landpark.org for details and updates regarding this exciting event.

OCTOBER

Free pole walking clinics

Organized by Cure Arthritis Now, free pole walking clinics will be hosted Wednesdays (at 6 p.m.), Oct. 7 and 21, and Fridays, Oct. 9 and 23, at the Sierra 2 Community Center, 2791 24th St. Interested people need to call the group directly for times and specific locations, to pre-register and reserve the walking poles for the clinics. For more information, call 208-8700.

OCTOBER 3

Skate Park Concert

Held at La Sierra Community Center Skate Park, 5325 Engle Rd. in Carmichael, join us for our second Skate Park Concert of the year. Local bands will perform while participants are grinding the rails and skating the half pipe! Admission is \$5. Music starts at 4 p.m. For more information, call 483-7826.

OCTOBER 3-4

Benefit plant sale

Sunburst Projects and the Benefit Plant Sales announce: There will be plant sales held in the covered parking area behind the Gifted Gardener at 18th & J Streets, midtown Sacramento from 9am to 3 pm both Saturday and Sunday. A wide selection of perennials plus some winter growing CA natives will be available.

St. Robert's Fall Festival

Held Saturday, Oct. 3 from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 4 from noon to 6 p.m., the St. Robert Parish and School is holding their Fall Festival. Located at 2243 Irwin Way, the event will offer great food, children's games, bingo, entertainment and even televised football games on Sunday all to benefit St. Robert Parish and School.

OCTOBER 4

McKinley Song Circle

McKinley Children's Song Circle with the Shadechasers will perform for free Oct. 4 at 3-4:30 p.m. in the Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra Blvd. Families welcome. Brand new songbooks for singers available. For more information and directions, call 531-4110. The Shadechasers is a local folk group of 10 members playing Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Malvina Reynolds, Raffi, and other singable family music suitable for children's activities. We sing and dance, and encourage families to sing together whenever they can. Now we have a new songbook with about 60 songs to share with our group.

OCTOBER 7

Raising Financially Responsible Kids

Cynthia L. Kinney with New York Life will be presenting a free workshop entitled "Raising Financially Responsible Children." The workshop will be held from 9-11 a.m. at Chinese Grace Church at 6656 Park Riviera Way. To RSVP please contact Janice Joe at 422-7523.

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State Fair: 'Outlandish array of horrifyingly fatty foods' keep crowd coming

Continued from page 11

dollar to get in, but he too was sleeping. The enormity of him was quite apparent, though. He was roughly the size of a Fiat.

Obviously one of the main reasons to go to the fair is the simply outlandish array of horrifyingly fatty foods that are slathered, greased, iced, barbecued and then deep-fried for your enjoyment (or peril). Stop one for me was a corn dog. It was the size of a yardstick, but I considered it a warm up.

Later I had a Philly cheesesteak that apparently requires an advanced physics degree to eat properly. Eventually I just employed the shovel method. It entails basically getting the item into my mouth as quickly as possible with utter disregard for cleanliness or self-respect.

But what about dessert? I can't walk away from the fair without completing the triumvirate of tastiness.

So I got a churro. The lady vendor gave me the lame duck of the bunch, which immediately broke in half when she handed it to me. I caught the broken northern shard on its way to the ground. I am pretty sure the lady was impressed at my ability to not allow food to become garbage.

As always, I walked through the exhibition buildings with award-winning art pieces and photographs and quilts and absurdly fluffy bunnies. Then through the myriad of Billy Mays wannabes peddling their wares complete with headset and astonishingly loud speakers. I even saw a few people walking around with ShamWows. I summarily went on a 15-minute hunt for ShamWow spokesman Vince, but alas, he was not there.

The county exhibits were neat, though between you, me and a hole in the ground, I was pretty disappointed in Sacramento County's display. Who is that person in the rocking chair for seemingly no reason? When you go, you'll see it. If you are confused and slightly unhappy, don't worry – Tulare County will make you feel a little bit better. When you see the animatronic cow, do not meet its gaze. I hear it feeds on souls and the tears of children.

All in all, it was the full fair experience. I even spent five bucks playing that fixed basketball game where the ball is bigger than the hoop. I am surprised the lady didn't just laugh in my face when I handed her my money. Oh well, I didn't need the 6-foot-tall Rottweiler anyway.



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BENEFITING
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Neighbors with a 'Golden' bond

By SCOTT YATES
Special Contributor to The Pocket News

When my wife and I moved in to our house in South Land Park in May 2008 with our Golden Retriever, Kodo, we knew the neighborhood would be a good fit for us. We were enamored with the mature trees, large lot sizes, and convenience to Downtown. But being new homeowners in an established neighborhood, we wondered how we might fit in with the neighbors.

During the first days of our move, we said hello to a neighbor as she walked her Golden Retriever in front of our house. Her name was Marie Ziegler. Marie, and her husband Mark, are proud owners of a mature Golden named Rusty. We commented on how beautiful Rusty was and she had noticed we had a Golden as well. We talked about our dogs for twenty minutes under the setting sun.

In my experience, sharing a common appreciation for Golden Retriever's is common. They are a popular breed because of their beauty, trainability, and temperament. When we learned both Kodo and Rusty were rescues from the Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, my wife and I knew we had a special bond with our new neighbors.

Homeward Bound maintains a sanctuary and adoption center in Elverta, about 15 miles North of Downtown Sacramento. The sanctuary rescues Golden Retrievers from shelters and from owners who, due to an unexpected change in circumstances, can no longer care for their pets. They rescue Golden Retrievers of all ages, health conditions and even Golden mixes on occasion.

Each rescued Golden immediately receives a thorough veterinary exam. Each animal is spayed or neutered before an adoption can occur, all vaccinations are brought up to date, and each Golden is tested for heartworm.

My wife and I adopted Kodo in 2007 when he was just an 8-week-old puppy. Kodo and his brothers came to the Sacramento area sanctuary via a tragedy in Oregon. A breeding facility was lost to a fire and although the Oregon community adopted many of the displaced animals, the male puppies needed a home and Homeward Bound offered to help.

Marie and Mark adopted Rusty when he was around 7 years old. They learned about Homeward Bound when they were searching for a mature Golden Retriever to add to their family.

See More Photos & Open House Schedule for my "Featured Homes" at:
GreenhavenPocketHomes.com

7024 El Sereno - \$285,000 >
SLP Hills 3 bd 2 ba, 1-story.
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Gated Riverlake Custom!
\$777,000

6828 Gloria Dr - Pending! >
4 bd 2.5 ba, 1-story! 3-car
w/pass-thru. Updated carpet,
vinyl flooring & int / ext paint!
Large family rm. Remote 4th
bdrm & half bath. Apx 2,085 sf

< 840 W. Cove Wy - Riverlake!
Gated Custom in Westshore.
4 bd 3 ba, 3-car w/pass-thru.
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GINA LAPLACA 548-1628



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SOLD

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LUXURY GATED COMMUNITY KNOWN AS THE RIVERS AT LIGHTHOUSE MARINA. LOCATED ON RIVER W/ WATER VIEWS, WALKING TRAILS & CLUB HOUSE.

TERRY MULLIGAN 775-1908

1000 RIVER CREST DRIVE-\$299,000

FANTASTIC LOCATION TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME OVERLOOKING THE SACRAMENTO RIVER. THE HOMESITE IS LOCATED IN THE GATED COMMUNITY KNOWN AS THE RIVERS AT LIGHTHOUSE MARINA.

TERRY MULLIGAN 775-1908

WILTON

9587 ALTA MESA ROAD-\$360,000

NEW LISTING

HORSE PROPERTY SITUATED ON 10 FENCED ACRES. 200X200 HORSE ARENA, 30X30 BARN EQUIPPED WITH 7 STALLS, TACK ROOM, 4 TIL STALLS, AND A 10X20 HAY STORAGE AREA INSIDE NEWER ROOF, CARPET, AND LAMINATE FLOORING.

BRANDON SHEPARD 479-1936