

# THE POCKET NEWS

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September 20, 2012

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# Seven new 'claws' to join fleet to keep streets clean

The Pocket News

On Tuesday Sept. 11, the City Council approved the purchase of seven new claw loaders to replace a portion of the fleet of 14 vehicles used to provide current loose-in-the-street and illegal dumping cleanup services citywide. From the staff report:

"Claw loaders are used by the Solid Waste and Recycling Division to pick up green waste and will continue to be used twelve months of the year. This includes all normal operational days and on Fridays and weekends as needed during heavy leaf season. According to the Solid Waste and Recycling Division Business Plan, if Measure T passes, claw loaders will be dedicated to yard waste pick up November through January and deployed daily for Neighborhood Cleanup by appointment during February through October. If Measure T does not pass, the claw loaders will continue to be used for loose-in-the-street yard waste pick up. Claw loaders are also used for illegal dumping cleanup."

"This is a vital piece of equipment that we rely upon," says Steve Harriman. "Our most critical time is the fall leaf season and having these new claws will help us now, and in future years, clean residential streets faster and safer."

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# Giving back is 'sew' much fun

By SALLY KING  
Pocket News writer  
sally@valcomnews.com

Mary Schenck, a Greenhaven Pocket resident, finds it hard to sit in a chair for very long with her hands folded.

Schenck and her friends from the Ladies Oriental Shrine, Ila Neb Court No. 51, spend much of their time sewing or quilting blankets for the young patients at the Shriner's Hospital for Children.

"I love to sew," Schenck said. "Give me a sewing machine and I'm happy. It's the best therapy."

Schenck has four sewing machines and each one has a different purpose. Two of the walls of her sewing room are lined with fabric and projects. Schenck learned how to sew in high school and later began quilting. Schenck used to own two quilt stores, one in Sacramento and one in Davis. Schenck eventually sold the stores to work fulltime at U.C. Davis as an administrative assistant.

Now retired, Schenck believes making quilts and blankets for the children at Shriner's Hospital is a great way to give back.

The Shriner's built their first hospital for children in 1922 in Shreveport Louisiana. According to the Shriners, through their commitment and fundraising skills, nearly one million children have been treated at one of the 22 Shriner's Hospitals for Children across the United States, and in Canada and Mexico.

Jane Butler, another member of Ila Neb Court No. 51, said, in addition to blankets, their group also sews wheelchair bags, boys pull on shorts, draw string pants and pillowcases. These items are all made out of child friendly material.

"Each child gets to pick out a blanket that is theirs to keep and take home with them," said Butler. "Some of the blankets are embroidered with animal prints, some have holiday themes."

Butler said their group also repairs items at the hospital such as curtains and bedspreads.

Anywhere from 10 to 12 women show up on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the San Juan Masonic Temple, to sew the blankets and do mending. Ila Neb No. 51 also sponsors fundraisers to raise money for various needs at the hospital, such as prosthetics.

Schenck just made a quilt in browns and golds with the theme of 'Around the World' for a Shriner fundraiser being held in November.

Schenck said it takes maybe a day to sew the blankets.

"It takes me around 40 hours to make a quilt," Schenck said. "I piece the top part of the quilt, then send it out to be professionally quilted, when



Child's quilt. Photo by Sally King



Mary with a large quilt she made. Photo by Sally King

## Correction

In the Sept. 9 issue of The Pocket News, the phone number listed in the Sam Brannan Middle School woodshop story was incorrect. The correct number is: 264-4350.

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it comes back, I sew the binding and the hem."

Schenck said it's sometimes a real challenge to piece the different fabrics, trying to match colors and designs that look good as a quilt pattern.

Butler said Mary does beautiful work. Her quilts are a delight to see. It is a skill to be able match fabrics; one has to have an eye for putting fabrics together.

"It's a pleasure to be involved in something so worthwhile," Butler said. "It is nice to be part of making a child comfortable."

Janet Johnston, another member of Ila Neb Court No. 51, retired 10 years ago and finds making the blankets a worthy cause.

"The blankets are darling and so nice and soft," said Johnston. "The camaraderie we experience in our group is special."

Johnston said Schenck is a very giving person, so sweet and unassuming and she gets the job done.

Johnston said Ila Neb provides a service for the children without the child's family worrying about monetary things. Johnston believes Shriner's provides the best services for its patients. Johnston pointed out that folks not involved in the Shriners also contribute their time, talents and monetary gifts to the hospital.

Schenck, Butler and Johnston view their time making the blankets and quilts for these children as time well spent. They receive joy from giving these children something warm to hold onto during times when a child is dealing with a serious illness.

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# Event to be held in memory of Farrell's tragedy of 1972

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News writer  
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It can be hard to believe for many people that 40 years have already passed since that horrific day when a plane crashed into Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour at 5770 Freeport Blvd., opposite the northwest corner of Executive Airport.

With such an infamous moment in the city's history, the memories of that day remain strong in the minds of many longtime area residents.

The road to this dreadful incident can be traced back to 1964, when construction began on The Crossroads, a \$1.5 million shopping center on about an 8-acre site, which had been owned by the Setzer family since the late 1930s. The project was completed during the following year.

On Sept. 13, 1970, *The Sacramento Bee* published an aerial view photograph, which showed the shopping center's rectangular-shaped addition, which was nearing completion.

Included in the caption accompanying the photograph were the following words: "(The addition) will house a Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour and four other shops."

The Freeport Boulevard Farrell's opened two months later.

And like the other locations of this Portland-based chain, which specialized in ice cream products and sandwiches, this south area eatery became a popular dining spot and an entertaining place for birthday parties.

Farrell's, which was known for its turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century décor and straw hat-wearing, uniformed employees who would sing in celebration of a guest's birthday, had already established itself in the Sacramento area.

A Farrell's opened at 1441 Howe Ave. on May 27, 1969.

## Farrell's name linked to tragedy

But unfortunately for Farrell's, despite experiencing success in other Sacramento area locations, including the Downtown Plaza and Sun-

rise Mall, its name, on a local level, has been forever linked with that tragic day when a plane struck its Freeport Boulevard location.

In fact, in the history of local businesses, few business names cause a greater reaction among longtime Sacramentans than the name, Farrell's.

After all, Farrell's was associated with one of the darkest days in Sacramento history.

On Sunday, Sept. 24, 1972 at about 4:25 p.m., at the end of the Golden West Sport Aviation Air Show at the airport, a 36-year-old pilot, named Richard Bingham, attempted to take off in an F-86 Sabrejet aircraft from the 3,000-foot-long Runway 30 on the west side of the airport.

Overrunning the runway, the plane skidded across Freeport Boulevard and crashed into the very busy Farrell's restaurant. About 100 people were inside the eatery during the incident.

Although Bingham, who was a resident of Novato, Calif., survived the crash, 22 others in the restaurant, including 12 children, were not as fortunate. Additionally, an entire family lost their lives and about 30 people were injured in the accident.

At the time of the Farrell's plane crash and until the events of Sept. 11, 2001, it was the worst air-ground tragedy in the nation's history.



Photo by Lance Armstrong  
The memorial includes a 5-foot-tall, granite fountain, which spreads water across the inscribed names of 23 victims of the tragedy.

## List of victims

Those killed inside Farrell's as a result of the crash were: Walter Warren Krier, a 32-year-old account executive with Mitchum, Jones and Templeton stockbrokers; Sandra Ann Krier, Walter's 28-year-old wife; Walter and Jennifer Ann, and 2-year-old son, Brandon; Leon C. Warram, a 49-year-old electronics technician at McClellan Air Force Base; Leon's 50-year-old wife, Ellen; Louis "Bud" Jugum, a 43-year-old systems analyst for the California Western States Life In-

surance Co.; Louis' 10-year-old daughter, Elaine; Nancy Keys, a 12-year-old student at Arden School; Nancy's 14-year-old sister, Sally, who was a student at El Camino High School; 29-year-old Anthony Martin, who owned Morrey's Letterman emblem shop at 5434 14th Ave.; Anthony's 28-year-old wife, Susan; Anthony and Susan's children, Gregory, 6, Jeanene, 4, and Shawn, 3; Susan's 43-year-old father, Gene LaVine; Susan's 46-year-old mother, Margaret LaVine; Anthony and Susan's nephews, Jeff Nash, 5,

See Farrell, page 7

# Farrell: Firefighters Burn Institute formed after the tragic day

Continued from page 6

and Gary Nash, 2; 3-year-old Kristin "Kristi" Francis; 29-year-old Joan Bacci; and 8-year-old Nancy Rodriguez.

Also killed during the incident were a couple whose car was struck by the plane while they were commuting along Freeport Boulevard and Billie Gertrude Irwin, who was hit by a car while she was crossing the boulevard toward the accident scene.

## Founding of the Burn Institute

The Farrell's tragedy raised awareness of the need for a specialized burn unit in Sacramento.

Acting on his desire to have such a unit established, Cliff Haskell, a fire captain with the Sacramento Fire Department, led a drive that resulted in the founding of the Firefighters Burn Institute.

It was not long afterward that the city's first burn unit opened at the University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

In 2002, Kerri (Francis) McCluskey, a survivor of the Farrell's tragedy and the identical twin sister of Kristi Francis, learned that plans were being made to renovate the building at the crash site for a police and fire public safety headquarters.

McCluskey, who suffered a broken leg in the crash, said that this news caused her to take action in the attempt to either halt the project or have the use of the old Runway 30 discontinued.

## Memorial gets established

Although McCluskey was not successful in these efforts, her perseverance led to the establishment of a memorial at the crash site. The memorial was dedicated on Saturday, March 15, 2003.

Featured in the memorial is a 5-foot-tall, granite fountain that spreads water across the inscribed names of 23 victims of the tragedy.

Behind the fountain is a plaque that describes the incident that happened at the site on Sept. 24, 1972, and on the south side of the memorial is another plaque recognizing those who contributed to the establishment of the memorial.

Also included in the memorial are 11 rose bushes that were

donated by Capital Nursery and represent each family who lost a loved one or loved ones during the Farrell's tragedy.

Today, McCluskey resides in Sonoma with her husband, Andrew, her 15-year-old daughter, Kristin, who was named after McCluskey's late sister, her son, Connor, 12, and her daughter, Annika, 8.

McCluskey, who presently works as the counselor at Sonora Elementary School, said that although she will always have a void in her life without her sister, she has continuously learned to better deal with that void.

"You never get over losing someone," McCluskey said. "You learn how to keep going. You can live two ways. For one, when you go through a tragedy, you can just give up and mope and go through life and think everything is awful. Going through the accident was horrific. I'm not going to downplay that, but you get to a point where you have to make something good come out of something bad. That's how I've gotten through it, and through counseling with other kids and through the Firefighters Burn Institute, it's like the living memorial. I still have a hole in my heart without (Kristi), but it's a heart-shaped hole."

## Upcoming ceremony in memory of the tragedy

In memory of the Farrell's tragedy of 1972, a ceremony will be held at the Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour Memorial



Photo by Lance Armstrong  
The old Runway 30 was the site of the unsuccessful takeoff of an F-86 Sabrejet on Sept. 24, 1972. The vintage, Korean jetfighter eventually crashed into an ice cream parlor, killing 22 people in the restaurant and injuring many others.

site at 5770 Freeport Blvd. on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 1 p.m.

Attending the event will be survivors and others who are closely connected to the Farrell's tragedy. A short program at the gathering will include a speech by McCluskey.

Jim Doucette, who serves as the executive director of the Firefighters Burn Institute and remembers seeing the smoke cloud rise above south Sacramento on Sept. 24, 1972, officially invited the public to attend the event.

"Please join us and others that have been touched by this and other burn-related tragedies in commemorating the 40th anniversary of this terrible, but significant event," Doucette said.

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# Families enjoy time together at Fairytale Town

By JOHN COOPER  
Pocket News writer  
jcooper@valcomnews.com

On Sunday, Sept. 9, Land Park's own Fairytale Town celebrated the 33rd annual National Grandparents Day by offering grandparents free admission to the park with their grandchildren. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., grandparents with children ages 0-12 explored all the fun and games for no cost at all. The program, made possible by ScholarShare College Savings, encourages Sacramento's grandparents to connect with their grandchildren through play and activities.

The park offered plenty of opportunities for grandparents and children to have fun together, from a live performance on the lawn to chalk art and scavenger hunts. Special workshops were held in shaded pavilions that gave families the chance to play prince or princess with props sized for kids and adults, and finger painting tables large enough for children and their grandparents were abundant. The play structures scattered throughout the park provided excellent photo opps for grandparents to capture some memories with their grandkids in pictures. Many of these

structures are designed such that smaller kids are able to climb up towards the shoulders of adults, so that older family members don't have to kneel; the sighs of relief were audible from the knees of the seniors.

Doris Jane, a Land Park local, has been enjoying the scenery for years. Several sets of grandchildren have kept her coming back again and again. "They love the slides," she said. It's the park itself that she and grandpa love. The shade is wonderful, she explained, and it keeps the park nice and cool. "[The staff] has kept the park up nicely," she said confidently, leading

one to believe that the pleasant atmosphere this year was not just an isolated event. It's no coincidence that the park has been able to keep bringing the summer crowds, both young and old, for all this time.

If you missed the event, or just did not get enough time with your grandchild and want more to enjoy the park, Fairytale Town would like to remind you that September is Grandparents Month. Through Sept. 28, the park is offering free admission and activities for grandparents and their grandchildren Monday through Friday, from 2 to 5 p.m.

# Sacramento Children's Chorus Celebrates 20 Years On a High Note

By CORRIE PELC  
Pocket News writer  
corrie@valcomnews.com

About 20 years ago, Sacramento native Lynn Stevens decided to create a children's choral program as her master's degree project when attending California State University, Sacramento.

Now in 2013, the Sacramento Children's Chorus will celebrate its 20th anniversary as a nonprofit organization that provides choral music education and performance opportunities to children throughout the Sacramento area.

## Keep the Beat

According to Stevens, who grew up in Land Park and has now lived in the Pocket area since 1986, the mission of SCC is twofold – to give the youth of Sacramento a place to learn the fine art of singing, and to give artistic organizations such as the Sacramento Opera and Sacramento Ballet that may need a youth ensemble for certain productions.

Stevens said she got the idea when she returned to Sacramento in 1986 after spending 25 years in Southern California attending college and teaching. "There was a concert that was going on with the Sacramento Symphony and they had imported the San Francisco Girl's Chorus to come over to do parts that required children's voices," she said. "I thought that was ridiculous – we should have our own group."

From there the idea for SCC was born. Each year approximately 150 children ages 7 to 19 attend the music education program, according to Daphne Tom Quist, SCC's executive director. The program begins right after Labor Day in September and runs through May, and rehearsals and classes are held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shephard on Morris Avenue in the Arden area.

## Sing It Out

SCC now has five different levels of programming broken down by grade level and experience, starting with second grade and running to early college age, including training choirs and a touring high school ensemble. Quist said

they begin at the second grade level as they have found kids at that age are more likely to be able to sit still and pay attention to fully absorb the information they are given.

However, starting this year SCC has expanded its programming to include an eight-week KinderChorus for kindergarten and first grade students. "They don't perform, but kindergarten and first grade do early experiences with music because so much of that is being cut out of the schools," Stevens said.

During their experience at SCC, Stevens said students learn the "fine art of singing," as well as music history and music theory, and are introduced to a wide range of music including choral, Broadway, jazz, folk, and classical.

Students have performance opportunities throughout the year, including annual holiday and spring concerts, plus special invites throughout the year. "We do wedding, inaugurations, funerals, we've sung at the opening of the legislature, we've sung at the River Cats, (and) we've joined the symphony and opera," Stevens said.

And older students part of the touring choir have the chance to go global with their music. Stevens said over the years the group has traveled and performed in England, France, the Czech Republic, Canada, Hawaii, and Scandinavia. And in 2013 as part of their 20th anniversary the touring choir will travel to perform in China.

## Music to the Ears

In addition to learning about music, both Stevens and Quist say their students take away lessons they can apply to other areas of their lives and education.

For example, Quist said children at SCC learn life skills such as responsibility by needing to bring their music to their rehearsals. "(And they learn) time management so that they have time to do their homework as well as come to rehearsal," she said.

Stevens said SCC students learn how to work with other people and also how to express themselves. "At this very young age when their voices and personalities are developing, they want to find ... a



Lynn Stevens conducts the Cantoris group of the Sacramento Children's Chorus.

Photo courtesy Sacramento Children's Chorus

safe place," she said. "I always say this is a safe place for all of you to express yourselves, express your feelings, and tap into the talent that you have."

And Stevens said what kids learn at SCC can help support their school subjects. For example, music history exposes the kids to different eras of history, helping to support the history lessons in school, and it helps with developing reading and math skills. "It's supporting all the other subjects that are being taught, but it's also teaching us about our humanity," she said.

## Marching Forward

With celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, SCC is planning a celebratory concert at the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento on April 21, 2013. Stevens said they are planning to invite SCC alumnae to perform by solo and as part of their choirs.

As for the next 20 years, Quist said they are considering bringing SCC to those who can't come to them. "Right now parents have to bring their child to our rehearsal venue and for some families that's a struggle," she said. "We're looking at trying to see what it would be like if we could bring this program into neighborhoods."

And Stevens hopes SCC will continue to raise the bar

of excellence in the music scene in Sacramento, as well as educating young people in the possibilities of fine artistic achievement. "I would just really love to see it grow and thrive, and be a very known visible part of the arts scene in Sacramento," she said.

For more information to visit their website, <http://www.sacramentochildrenschorus.org>, or call 646-1141.

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# An ongoing attempt at being 'river friendly'

By **MONICA STARK**  
Pocket News editor  
editor@valcomnews.com



When my husband Adam and I first moved into our home last summer, we had grand ideas about what we should do with our front and back yards. He is an intern architect, so he has access to computer programs that facilitate all of our planning. But planning is just the beginning and now I feel overwhelmed after visiting the garden tended by Sacramento resident, David Roberts.

Roberts is an environmentalist who draws on nature for inspiration. He is a professional landscaper by trade, so I shouldn't be too hard on myself when I look at the Bermuda grass that blankets my front yard. I've heard time and again that lawns suck up so much water, so I'd like to get rid of that one day and plant an orchard of fruit trees, which is easier said than done, I know.

When I found out that Roberts used Round-Up to get rid of his Bermuda grass back in 1987, I realized even

the most environmentally friendly people use that stuff I've heard called many bad names.

Even though our hottest days are probably gone for the year, Roberts said there's still some opportunity to get to "ground zero" if I want to get rid of my crummy lawn. He added that it's actually a good time if you want to get started. "Planning as you get into the cooler season is great, because the soil is warm still, but the temperatures begin to moderate and the plants are able to be under less stress."

This is good news because as I learned from Dave Tamayo, environmental specialist for Sacramento County, no matter what kind of plant you get, if you put it in a place not too healthy, it will be stressed and won't be able to fight off chemicals such as the Round-Up I'm about to purchase.

Tamayo is an entomologist, or as I'd like to say a bug expert, who explained that most bugs in your garden aren't necessarily bad bugs. And, Roberts teaches a Green Gardener course in West Sacramento (which is now underway). He's trying



Dave Roberts' front yard, which harbors more than 100 species.

Photo courtesy of Dave Roberts

to change the minds of professionals.

"(They) think they know the industry, which from their perspective, they do, but we're trying to bend their minds into new practices and change the way things are done a bit," he said. That is, he's trying to get people to be more environmentally friendly.

Tamayo and Roberts are both advocates for River Friendly Landscaping guidelines. There are seven of them that I need to remember as we undergo this major landscaping transformation.

One includes water conservation – which by getting rid of my lawn will eventually get me there. That is the foot in the door, as Roberts says, but it's still just one piece of the pie.

Another is to create a healthy soil. Roberts said native plants don't always need a lot of fancy nutrients, but when you have an old garden that may have been doused with fertilizers, you will have to rebuild the health of the garden.

"We're taking a lesson from nature, instead of from man," he said. "We invented fertilizers, which helped us with our crops, but on the other hand, we also ignored the natural systems, and, in some cases, helped to deteriorate them through chemical use."

Roberts explained that the soil food web is all the microorganisms: fungi, bacteria, bugs, that all create soil structure. Just by having organic matter as mulching, he said, begins the process because the mulch gets deteriorated and it's taken into the ground by certain organisms.

OK, but how can you differentiate between good bugs and bad bugs? That was my question for Tamayo, who chuckled a little before simply stating if you see bugs damaging your plants, those are the bad ones. Then he threw a wrench into the logic and said if your plant is having a problem, you need to be sure you know what's causing it. I guess you could think bugs are killing your plants when something else is.

Tamayo said people apply insecticides to lawns, even though in California insects are rarely the problem to them. There are a bunch of tests you can try on your lawn if you think bugs are ruining it. (See <http://ucipm.ucdavis.edu/QT/parasitesinsectcard.html> for more on that.)

Fortunately when you do have lawn insects, a lot are susceptible to nematodes, or micro worms, that can harm the insects that are damaging your lawn. I understand you have to be good at following directions if that's the route you go as they are susceptible to drying out,

not to mention, expensive. Tamayo said rather than killing the insects, the nematodes give the insects a bacterial disease, turning some insects red.

I feel like I've learned a lot about environmentally friendly gardening, but am nowhere closer than I was before. Well, Roberts did at one point during an interview call his plants his children and, at another, said that not all his clients want to tend a garden -- they want a landscape.

Maybe that's more my style. I'd love to be all Zen and take the 10 minutes a day to unwind by tending the garden, but shoot, it's going to be dark by the time I get home.

If I ever get to that point of Zen gardening, I plan on incorporating all of the river friendly landscape guidelines: Water conservation, soil health, water and air quality, landscape locally, wild-life habitat, less to the land-fill, and conserve energy. Read more: <http://www.msa.sac-county.net/sactostormwater/RFL/>

And I'll remember to water only between the hours 4 p.m. and 7 a.m. For spring through fall, odd number addresses water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Even number addresses water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. During winter, watering is only allowed on Saturdays or Sundays.



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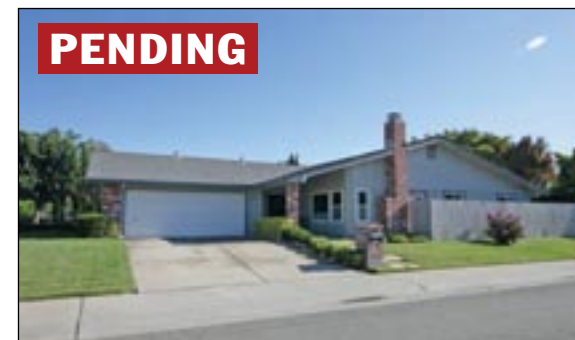
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Photos courtesy of Araceli Mercado

Volunteers worked hard to clean up Pocket Canal on Sept. 8 at Portuguese Park, located at 7350 Durfee Way. Some raked leaves, and trimmed bushes and trees, while others picked up trash along the waterway.



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# Risk of West Nile virus continues

Special to Valley Community News

Though Labor Day has passed, mosquito activity and the risk of West Nile virus continues for all area residents. The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District reminds the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes.

Currently Sacramento County has reported three human cases of West Nile virus. Throughout California, activity continues to increase and currently there are 44 human cases and 2 deaths. Nationwide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the 1590 reported human cases of West Nile virus are the most reported to date since the mosquito transmitted disease was first discovered in the United States in 1999.

## 2012 West Nile virus activity update:

Sacramento County: 3 human cases, 429 dead birds, 407 mosquito samples, 17 sentinel animals, 1 horse have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County: 66 dead birds, 112 mosquito samples, 1 horse, 2 sentinel animals have tested positive for West Nile virus to date

## The district has the following advice:

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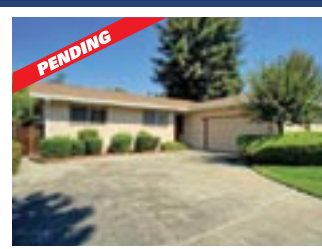
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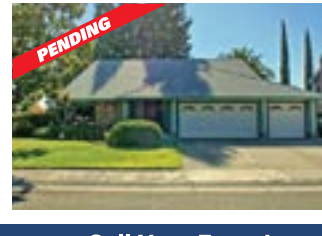
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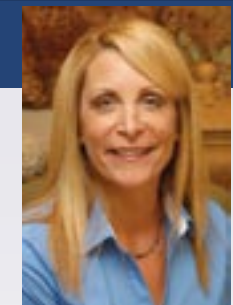
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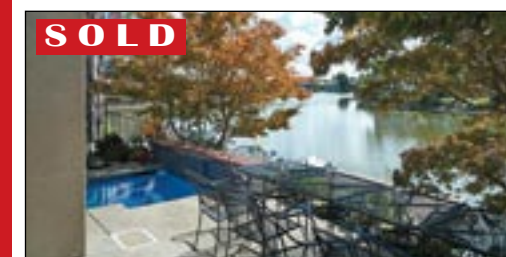
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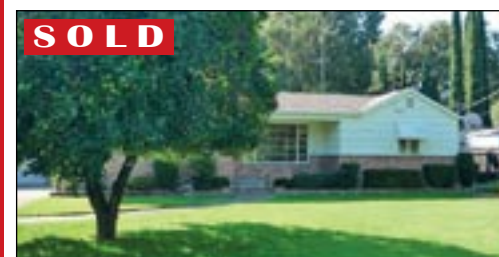
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Courtesy of Bill Kirk, Scoutmaster Troop 259  
Joseph Barrett and Mark Matney were honored at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony at Elks Lodge No. 6 for their work and commitment to achieve Boy Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

**Soaring with the Eagles**  
Two Troop 259 Scouts Reach Boy Scouting's Highest Rank

By **BILL KIRK**  
Special to the Pocket News

On Sunday, Sept. 9, two Boy Scouts in Greenhaven Scout Troop 259, Joseph Seligo Barrett and Mark Allen Matney, Jr., were honored at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony at Elks Lodge No. 6 for their work and commitment to achieve Boy Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

Joining their celebration were many friends, family and fellow Troop 259 Scouts and leaders. Special guests included Mamie Yee, Chief of Staff to County Supervisor Jimmie Yee, Former City Councilman Robbie Waters and Darnell Lawrence, the President of Elks Lodge No. 6, and the original Charter Organization for the Troop since 1966.

In Scouting, each Scout blazes his own trail, expressed in the form of the Scouting skills he learns, the leadership positions he chooses to accept and the Merit Badges he earns along the way. Both Barrett and Matney earned their Eagle Rank in 2011. Both accepted the responsibility of leading the Troop as the Senior Patrol Leader and other Troop leadership positions.

According to the Boy Scouts of America website, out of the 2.7 million nationally registered Boys Scouts in 2011, only 51,473 Scouts (or about 2 percent) were awarded the Eagle Scout Rank. Their exceptional effort over several years in the Troop placed Barrett and Matney in rare company. They have now joined the Troop 259 "Eagles Nest" of 163 Scouts who have earned that rank since the Troop's first Eagle Scout Rank was awarded in 1969.

A key requirement for the Eagle Scout Rank is completing an Eagle Scout Service Project to demonstrate leadership and to improve the community in which they live. Each young man chose a beneficial project, each with its own set of challenges. Barrett and a team of other Scouts added visible curbside street numbers to a wide swath of homes in the Greenhaven area as a way to clearly identify addresses for emergency responders. Matney and his group of volunteers took a rough, unimproved outdoor area at the Sacramento SPCA and converted it to a raised bed garden, improving the facility for pets awaiting adoption.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a special resolution from the County Board of Supervisors to each Eagle Scout by Mamie Yee, Chief of Staff to Supervisor Jimmie Yee. As each Scout noted in their personal remarks, their Scouting experience on the Trail to Eagle established a strong foundation for their futures. Barret is currently a senior at John F. Kennedy High School and is a long standing member of the Marching Band and Orchestra Ensemble. Matney graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 2011 and is entering his sophomore year at UCLA. Congratulations to both of these fine young men.

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## Local community unites to Walk to End Alzheimer's on Oct. 6

By SUSAN LAIRD  
Pocket News writer  
susan@valcomnews.com

You may – or may not – have heard about The Walk to End Alzheimer's event in Sacramento. Yet, this now-annual event is gathering a lot of clout throughout the region. This year's walk will be held on Oct. 6 at the State Capitol. Participants can choose to do

a three-mile walk, or a one-mile "shortcut" walk.

Officially dubbed "The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's," residents throughout the Sacramento area have quietly marked their calendars and raised funds. Local businesses are forming teams – and many have held special fundraisers for the cause.

"Alzheimer's Disease isn't fair," said Erin Stone, special events manager for the Sacramento office of the Alzheimer's Association. "This is a devastating disease. There are 5.4 million people with Alzheimer's in this country."

Alzheimer's Disease is named after German neuropsychiatrist Alois Alzheimer, who first diagnosed the condition in 1906. Alzheimer's Disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association, is a progressive, ultimately fatal, disorder in which certain types of nerve cells in particular areas of the brain degenerate and die for unknown reasons. It begins with memory deficits, followed by gradual erosion of judgment,

reasoning ability, verbal fluency and other cognitive skills.

Assisted living facilities that specialize in dementia care are now a necessity in every community. Local facilities include The Meadows, Primrose and Cimino Care.

"One out of every two Americans now knows someone with Alzheimer's," Stone said. "This disease is the sixth leading cause of death in this country. And it is the only Top 10 cause of death that we cannot stop, prevent, – or cure."

The national "Walk" began three years ago. This year, there will be 14 Walks.

"It's definitely growing," Stone said. "The growth of the Walk is pretty tremendous. People want to find a cure. Today, you can visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) to find Walks all over the nation."

To learn more, put together a team, or sign up as an individual, visit [www.act.alz.org](http://www.act.alz.org), or contact Erin Stone at (916) 930-9080 or [erin.stone@alz.org](mailto:erin.stone@alz.org).



Women dressed up at a previous High Tea event, which benefits My Sister's House. Photo courtesy of My Sister's House

## Help break the cycle of domestic violence with two events for My Sister's House

High Tea on Oct. 13 and 5K Run on Oct. 27

Special to The Pocket News

October is national Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To raise awareness about this life-threatening problem, My Sister's House, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence in the region, is hosting two community fundraisers: The 4th Annual High Tea on October 13th at the Chinese Community Church located at 5600 Gilgunn Way in South Sacramento, and the 9th Annual Run for a Safe Haven on Oct. 27 at William Land Park.

### High Tea Oct. 13 at Chinese Community Church

The Fourth Annual High Tea and Silent Auction originated with support from local religious leaders taking an active role to recognize signs of domestic violence. They wanted to provide life-saving services such as My Sister's House to their congregation. The Tea is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chinese Community Church located at 5600 Gilgunn Way in Sacramento.

Individual tickets are \$45. Tables for 10 are \$350, which includes the opportunity for a tea hostess to decorate the table with a theme.

Each year, attendees compete for the honor of being one of the most creative and elaborately-decorated tables. Tickets and table reservations are available online at [www.my-sisters-house.org](http://www.my-sisters-house.org).

### Run for a Safe Haven: Oct. 27 at William Land Park

The ninth annual 5K run/walk is the largest attended fundraiser for My Sister's House, with more than 800 runners and walkers. This event is for the entire family featuring a Kids Half Mile, prizes, food, games, and music. Participants are encouraged to dress in costume and awards will be given to the most creative. Come join in on the fun while supporting a great cause on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in William Land Park.

### Entry fees are:

Adults (ages 19 and up) \$30  
Teens (ages 13 to 18) \$25  
Kids Half mile - \$10 (ages 12 and under)

For companies or groups looking to support My Sister's House, being active, and having fun, the event also features running teams to support My Sister's House. The fee is \$250 with a minimum of 10 runners, and \$20 for ad-

ditional runners. Registration is available online at [www.runforasafehaven.com](http://www.runforasafehaven.com).

"This year's events are especially important as My Sister's House celebrates the opening of its transitional house for domestic violence survivors. We hope to raise enough funds so that abused women and children have an option, other than the streets, to stay after they leave our emergency Safe Haven," said Nilda Valmores, My Sister's House Executive Director.



Runners take off at a previous race to benefit My Sister's House. Photo courtesy of My Sister's House

Proceeds from both events will help My Sister's House in its efforts to putting a stop to domestic violence and providing shelter to victims of domestic violence.

My Sister's House is celebrating its 11th anniversary this year as the only non-profit organization in the Central Valley which specifically addresses the issue of domestic violence within the Central Valley's highly diverse Asian/Pacific Islander com-

munity. My Sister's House provides outreach and education to help prevent domestic violence, a 24/7 multilingual helpline, a six-bed shelter, a six-bed transitional house, and a Women to Work Program. Already it has provided more than 15,000 bed nights of shelter to Asian/Pacific women and children and other survivors of domestic violence. For more information about My Sister's House, call 930-0626 or visit [www.my-sisters-house.org](http://www.my-sisters-house.org).

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# Father Bong brings a 'Priestly Presence' to St. Anthony's

Editor's note: See following page for photos of the 19th annual St. Anthony Parish festival.

By ELIZABETH VALENTE  
Pocket News writer  
elizabeth@valcomnews.com

Not many Roman Catholic priests have a Facebook page or write an on-line blog. Then again, not many men of the cloth are known to jump out of planes to skydive, either. Meet Reverend Loreto B. Rojas, or 'Father Bong' as his parishioners call him. He is an avid fan of the Giants and Kings and considers modern technology a way to keep in contact with his congregation and hopes it will expand his flock.

Father Bong came to St. Anthony Parish, located off at 660 Florin Road in Greenhaven, back in July. The young 38 year old considers himself a nomad, jumping from church to church. Before coming to Sacramento, he practiced the faith at St. James Parish in Davis for five years and before that, he was in Yuba City. "I call home wherever I put my head down at night."

Born in the Philippines and the youngest of eight children, four sisters are in healthcare and his three brothers are engineers, Father Bong credits his father, a medical doctor in the Philippines, as the inspiration for him to go into the ministry. "He is a model of priesthood because he served. He gave free treatments to people who couldn't afford medical care. He saw the importance in humanity, and that's what I wanted to do."

His restless passion to his parishioners has helped double the number of worshippers at the church. Pocket resident Teressa Blair says she has seen a difference in not only in the number of people, but also the way people respond to his sermons. "He is young, enthusiastic, and animated. When he says something serious he'll add something humorous, he keeps you alert to the sermon. I find his interpretation of the word easier to understand and the stories and comments he tells are relevant."

"I feel faith is dynamic, and it should be alive and joyful," says a smiling Father Bong. "I try to find that profound contentment of where I am and share it with others. And I think it shows."

Lenore Alvarez, Pocket resident and parishioner, believes that Father Bong's enthusiasm and ability to connect with others so easily is the reason why more kids have returned to the church. "As a grandmother myself I am happy to see our future leaders coming to church. He is able to speak at their level as well as the adult level. He is in touch with the community."



Father Bong's passion to his parishioners has helped double the number of worshippers.

Photo by Elizabeth Valente

At the end of each mass, groups of school age children rush to the entrance of the church waiting their turn to personally greet Father Bong with a high-five or fist-pump.

"The church has really understood the spirituality of youthfulness," Father Bong said. "When we treat them with the intelligence that they have, and not underestimate their theological insights, I think they will come back and they will be nourished."

The passionate priest sees many tasks ahead of him serving parishioners at St. Anthony. He is still studying the details of his new job and community, but has two important objectives picked out already. First, he said, will be to make sure that older parishioners, who make up the bulk of the Catholic community in the church, feel valued and included. His second goal is to reach out to the youngest members, the children who are a vital element of the church. He hopes to expand the education and activities available for youths, even if that means expanding the facilities at the church to accommodate them.

"I want to reach out to the kids and help them to follow Jesus and be happy," Father Bong hopes by using social media like Facebook and online blogs it will bring the Gospel message and Christian religion to more youth parishioners. Right now he has young students asking him questions via email. "I get a lot of emails asking me why is it a sin to have suicide, or euthanasia, dating or even giving their first confession. I am happy they are comfortable to reach out to me with questions like these."

Father Bong also hopes by adding an adult education class to the church it will attract others to become new parishioners. "If we expect parents to raise their children in a Christian way of life, and they themselves are



Father Bong sharing a laugh with Lenore Alvarez, parishioner.

Photo by Elizabeth Valente

not nourished, then we are all barking empty sounds ourselves. We're giving them responsibilities without giving them lifeboats."

An avid musician and sports fanatic, Father Bong is also a risk taker. "Currently I'm working on my pilot's license, and even though my insurance agents don't like this, I like to skydive and do underwater sea diving."

His other great love, Igor, his four-year old miniature Australian and golden retriever. "He is my unplanned parenthood," laughs Father Bong. "On the drive home from San Francisco to Davis he was crying nonstop. I'm not sure if it was because he was only 8-weeks at the

time, or because he was traveling in a pink cage. I would cry too if I was in a pink cage. When I turned on Igor Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring, he became very quiet and subdued, hence his name, Igor."

"Father Bong has a gift when it comes to teaching about the Bible," explains Alvarez. "I feel like I'm in college, absorbing everything he says. He's thoughtful about his words and how he makes it a point to give us examples of being good stewards in the world."

Father Bong conducts the Sunday Masses at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5 p.m. as well as on Saturdays at 5 p.m., and daily Monday-Saturday Mass at 8 a.m.



Faces and places:

## St. Anthony's Parish Festival

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY  
stephen@valcomnews.com



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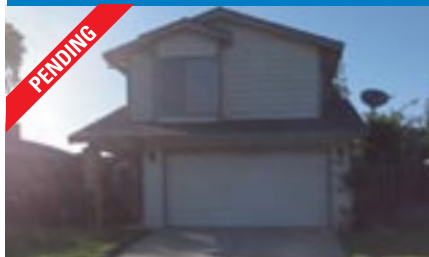
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