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Who's reading our paper? ■ See page 3



Local resident recalls the development of Riverside Village

See page 6

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Cover photo by: Monica Stark

Other photos by: Courtesy Lance Armstrong

Dear, reader:

This year, I will be hosting a political forum at Kennedy High School in April where candidates for city council (for district 7) and assembly (district 9) will answer questions that will be generated by the community—students in government classes will get extra credit for attending and their families will be encouraged to come and participate as well. Government and history teachers on campus are thrilled and Principal Chad Sweitzer said the large theater is pretty much free during the month of April. And Gary Martin of Access Sacramento has offered to televise it. Also as the editor of the *Pocket News*, I will be asking you, dear reader, to submit questions you'd like candidates to answer. So feel free to email me at any time editor@valcomnews.com and I will save them for the forum.

Candidates and I are working to nail down a date. Sincerely, Monica Stark





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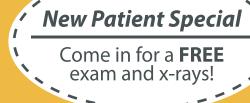
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Community briefs



Greenhaven Mothers' Club donated \$2,000 to Robbie Waters Greenhaven Pocket

Didion Kids' can drive collected 3,000 cans for the food closet

Last fall, the Genevieve Didion Student Council did such a great job on the "Kids can Food Drive", contributing more than 3,000 cans that went to the South Sacramento Interfaith Food Closet. The kids organized, collected, and gave the canned food items to

the food closet just in time for Thanksgiving.

Greenhaven Mothers' Club donated \$2,000 to Robbie Waters Pocket Greenhaven Library

These lovely ladies from the Greenhaven 'Mothers' Club donated \$2,000 to Robbie Waters Pocket Greenhaven Library. They visit for Mr. Cooper's sing-a-longs, Stay and Play, and especially stop on by the library during live animal exhibits. Friends of the Library held a special Mommy and Me Nutrition Workshop for them on Saturday, Feb. 1 and will host a second one on Saturday, March 1 from 3 to 4 p.m. Those nutrition workshops are presented by nutrition interns who work in Assemblymember Dr. Richard Pan's office.

"Walk 4 Water" set for

Experience what it is like to get up every morning and to have to walk in some cases miles to fetch contaminated water for your family and to have to do it again each evening. This is the case for many, especially women and young girls in southern Ethiopia where Faith Presbyterian Church sponsors water, education, medical clinics, sanitation and health and

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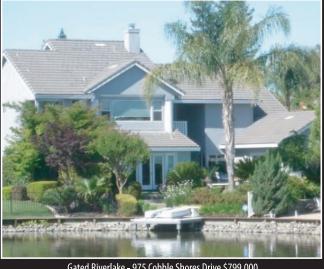












See Community Briefs, page 17

7462 Griggs Way \$299,000

Dollhouse décor:

Pocket resident makes and decorates dollhouses

By MONICA STARK editor@valcomnews.com

Inside of the living room of Pocket resident Nancy Streukens' home are two elaborate dollhouses, well actually one is a house and the other, she calls a shopping mall.

"I made them myself, well my husband put the first one together. The second one I did all myself. My husband is a retired carpenter and my father is an architect."

Retired from 30 years of working for The Bank of America, Streukens spends many hours detailing the insides of these "homes."

"I call them simplistic. You see the Victorian ones now, but mine are more like a bookshelf dollhouse like the way they used to design them for little girls," she said.

Streukens has made a doll-house for her two stepdaughters, one for her granddaughter, a bakery for her sister, but, the ones in her living room – they are all hers.

"A friend has asked: 'Do you let the neighborhood children play?' Well, I smiled and said 'no.' I always loved miniatures. My sister had an old-fashioned dollhouse with furniture. She let me play anytime I wanted but, in back of my head, it was hers."

Well when Streukens grew up, she knew what she wanted: A dollhouse of her own. "Even though it was expensive and impractical, I started collecting ever since," she said.

The attention to detail is so extraordinary and this reporter was fortunate enough to get a "home tour". Below describes each of the rooms of the dollhouse, which has been added to over the course of 40 years and has had been remodeled over time. What follows is just a sampling of the work she has done to the one house.

When viewing the home, you see it from the back of the 3-story house, as the front actually faces her wall.

The bottom floor includes a living room, den, dining room, kitchen and back porch. I make some (interior) pieces, but I buy majority of pieces. I decorate. I don't make everything. I did build the front door myself.

It was kind of strange. In the 70s, there weren't a lot of premade windows or doors. Now you can buy them. But when I did my first – that wasn't an option. It's eclectic 70s-80s style and some things look like antiques."

The den has a rug that a friend of hers made in exchange for a handmade doll-house-size set of dishes. Also inside the den, sits an arm chair, a copy of the *Sacramento Bee* and the main wall is filled with little books that Streukens has made. "Some of them don't open. Some just have covers over them," she said.

A set of handmade dishes decorate the dining room. Each place setting has five to six pieces with tiny silverware she has bought.

Ten years ago, Streukens remodeled the kitchen. The room's first incarnation has cupboards made out of basswood. But, she said, "they looked kind of crude, so with the remodel, I

was able to buy cupboards and islands and things. It made me refurbish the whole dollhouse."

As a result she bought standardized doors, rewired the house with little lamps, so if she flips the switch in the back of the dollhouse, the lights could come on.

"Outside" on the back porch, Streukens has a barbecue nicely placed and a porch swing she made. "That's about it," she said about the first floor.

The second story, meanwhile has a little girl's room, hallway, nursery, a bathroom, master bedroom and another porch.

The little girl's room has a handmade bed she made, a hand-crocheted rug her sister made and a closet she bought when she remodeled. Because Streukens wanted to put stairs in and liked the more realistic look, she had to build them herself.

In the nursery, she made the needlepoint rug and her sister knitted the afghan and hand crocheted a dime-size pig.

Inside the master bedroom is a bed and two dressers with pictures of her family, showing herself, her son and her mother. There are French doors that swing out to a second porch, which is decorated with a white table and surprisingly, the only doll in the house.

"I like dolls but I don't like doll house dolls. They make the scene look too static and I don't want to share my doll-house. It's my house. It's true. There are dollhouse people that feel that way," she said.

Streukens decorates her own home similarly to the eclectic English cottage style dollhouse. "But I have a lot of leftover stuff of family members. I mix and match and make it all fit in," she said.









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Photo by Lance Armstrong

Theresa Marie (Godwin) Knight was among the original residents of Riverside Village

Local resident recalls development of Riverside Village

By LANCE ARMSTRONG Lance@valcomnews.com

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At 89 years old, longtime Sacramento resident Theresa Marie (Godwin) Knight said she "has seen a few things in

For one thing, Theresa ex-

her life."

plained, she was one of the earliest residents of what became known as the Little

"I moved to Sacramento from St. Louis after the war when my husband (Sacramento native Russell William Knight), who was serving in the Army Air Force, was assigned to serve in the (Aleutian Islands)," said Theresa, who met Russell at a bowling alley in her native state of Texas in about 1942. "I first lived at (1115 U St.) with my husband's aunt and uncle, (Melvin) 'Buck' and Leona Weaver. After (Russell) returned from the Aleutians, we lived (in another Sacramento residence) for about three years. After that time, we had saved a little bit (of money), and were looking to buy our own house. We went driving around and found a new subdivision called Riverside Village. It only had one house (which

was owned by Irvin J. Fagg) and I don't know if they even had all the streets in then. We liked the area right away and it was close to town, so we soon decided to purchase the property and build a house. (The subdivision) was not in the city of Sacramento. It was just part of the county back then, and we had the rural address of Route 8, Box 664."

Theresa said that she "slightly recalled" purchasing the property, which consists of about three quarters of an acre, from one of her husband's friends who had bought the property from a representative of the subdivision.

The Knights' property was recognized as Lot 116, and is shown on the official "Plat of Riverside Village," which was filed in the office of the county recorder of Sacramento County on Jan. 10, 1947, in Book 25 of maps, Map No. 13.

In about early 1949, the Knights had their house built on their newly acquired property by a Japanese man, whose name Theresa unfortunately does not recall.

Theresa fondly rememthat contractor's work, noting, "He did an

excellent job and he was an honest contractor who did great work. I never had to check up on him, but I probably still did, being it was my first house and everything."

And while chuckling a bit, Theresa also recalled that the monthly payment for her house, which was sold for \$45,000, was only \$45.

A Riverside Village document, dated March 12, 1952, recognizes the owners of 117 lots in the development, which consisted of Apollo Way, Casilada Way, Inez Way, Piedmont Drive and Sagamore Way.

As would be expected, home values in that area have risen significantly since the development's original houses were constructed.

For instance, in 2005, Coldwell Banker advertised the availability of a three bedroom, two bathroom home on Piedmont Drive for \$519,000. That home was last sold in 2007 for \$375,000, which was a much greater sale price than its original, 1950s sale price.

In addition to Irving J. Fagg, who resided with his wife, Oneita, at Route 8, Box 585, other early Riverside Village residents who Theresa re-

See Riverside, page 7

Riverside:

called were Arnold and Sylvia Harry, John Lopes, George Dorothy McDowell, Luther Nishimura and Chet Ryan.

Theresa said that purchasing a home in Sacramento County with her now late husband was a great moment in her life, especially considering that she had been "raised in poverty, with love."

"İ grew up in a western town where they drove the cattle to market," Theresa said. "We lived in the town of Bonita, (Texas) on the Red River. It was a town of about 1,000 residents. My father (Everett) was a farmer and he also worked in the oil fields around (the nearby town of) Nacona, which was home to the famous Nacona Boot (Co.) factory. He died when I was about 6 years old and left my mother to raise five children on her own. I had one brother, Ray Godwin, and three sisters, Viola Godwin (who became Viola Walther), Guindia Godwin (who became Guindia Thomas) and Jimmie Lou Godwin (now Jimmie Lou Hooks). To support the family, she did the laundry for the local physician (Dr. Drabing) and the local dentist. She drew the water from a well and she also did the ironing. My mother was also the school librarian at St. Jo High (School) in St. Jo, (Texas), which was located about nine

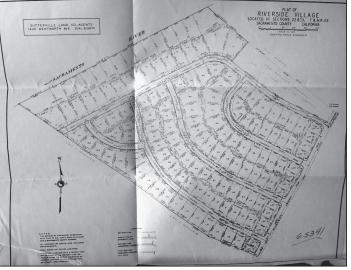


Photo by Lance Armstrong

The official "Plat of Riverside Village" was filed in the office of the county recorder of Sacramento County on Jan. 10, 1947.



Russell William Knight and Theresa Marie (Godwin) Knight were married on June 13, 1943. By the latter part of the same decade, they became the second homeowners in the then-new Riverside Village subdivision.

miles from the German town of Muenster."

In about 1942, Theresa began living with the Osborn family, who owned the Wayside Inn restaurant in Fort Worth, Texas.

She would regularly drive herself and a younger student, Shirley Osborn, to attend the private, all-girls institution, Our Lady of Victory Catholic School.

Following her education at that school, Theresa met Russell and they were married on June 13, 1943.

As the wife of an Army Air Force private, Theresa traveled to different parts of the country, including Missouri, where she learned to play poker from a woman with the last name of Steppi.

"As soon as Mr. Steppi, who played for the St. Louis Symphony, left for work, Mrs. Steppi would gather together the other Air Force wives and we played poker. We didn't play for money. It was just something to do."

Theresa would also become employed working at Scott Field - now Scott Air Force Base - in St. Clair County, Ill.

And as previously mentioned, when Russell left for the Aleutians. Theresa went to reside in Sacramento.

Theresa said that she soon acquired employment after coming to Sacramento.

"I did clerical work for the Bureau of Reclamation for a period of time," Theresa said. "I quit the job and adopted and raised two children – Randy William and Judi. I eventually went back to work for the federal government working for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Altogether I

worked for 40 years, working up to a job as a foreclose clerk with an early computer that filled an entire room."

After about 65 years of residing in today's Little Pocket area, Theresa remains motivated in her life. She said that she is dedicated to attending meetings of the Gypsy Traders club, which meets monthly in East Sacramento, and to going to church "as often as she can."

Theresa has also held a longtime interest in antiques and doll collecting, and was a longtime member of the Sacramento Pioneer Doll Club.

While gazing out a large window of her house last week, Theresa said, "I love my home and sitting in front of my big, glass window and looking out into my big yard, and I'm never bored. I'm maybe not as strong as I was, but I'm still kicking butt. I don't mind saying that. I tell everybody that."







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Building a time banking economy:

Pocket resident discusses local efforts

By MONICA STARK

In an effort to build an alternate economy, community members, such as Pocket resident Donna Fong, have come together to time bank, where their time and skills are valued equally. The idea is that for every hour Time Bank mem-bers spend doing something for someone in the Time Bank community, they earn one time dollar. Some offerings include: gardening, web design, tutoring, babysitting, party planning, dog walking, clerical work, cooking and childcare services.

Simply put: A time bank is a community system where people share their skills and the local system has been named "Community Skill Exchange - Sacramento":

In time banking all people's time is of equal value. It's been said that whether you got your master's degree in English and you're editing a paper for someone, or you are using a shovel to dig up someone's plants they don't want in their garden anymore-- that is equal time. So time bankers don't value one person's skill over another based on their education or opportunities. They're all spending the same amount of time to do it.

Fong has done outreach on the social networking site Nextdoor, where most of the neighborhoods in the city are represented.

As a retired teacher, Fong said she loves the idea of meeting new people, sharing skills, creating community and at minimal cost, she has been budget-minded all her life and now on a fixed income, she has to be. She said, "When thinking of what I had to offer, I couldn't believe that there were a lot more than I originally fathomed.

"My list included but was not limited to teaching Mahjong, dance lessons, rides to the store and/or airport, pet and house sitting, math tutoring, etc. I originally heard to this concept, which is different than bartering, in the AARP newsletter. I was thrilled to find one in Sacramento that I could join. I'm looking forward to being a charter member.

Southside Park Cohousing resident Don Knutson explained relationship of values between cohousing and time banking. "Here in cohousing, sharing and working for our mutual benefit is the hallmark of our community of 40 adults and 15 children. I think the obsession with money we so often see in mainstream society drives a wedge between all of us and works against the development of empathy for one another. Time banking allows us to value work equally and removing the onus of money allow us to appreciate each other's uniqueness.'

Outlining the core values of time banking, organizer Eileen Murray said they are each based on mutual respect. They are as follows:

Assets- every human being has something to contribute

Reciprocity- we serve others and let others serve us

Respect – we listen to and are accountable to another.

Social networks- by helping one another we build communities of support, trust and strength

Redefining work – all kinds of work are honored and rewarded

A professional cook, Murray is hoping to trade for things she needs, as she explained in an interview with Valley Community Newspapers: "I need to have someone come help me figure out a water system for my garden in the backyard. Somehow I am dyslexic; I've tried a number of systems myself. Or tutor me on the computer because I'd like to learn. At times, I had to ask my neighbor to walk my dog when I had a catering appointment. So she came to walk my dog. She would have gotten a time dollar. She and her husband came to the last information meeting. They will probably become members. (As an excuse to not participate) people say they don't have time. But it's just a matter of starting to shift the way that we live and

See Time banking, page 18

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For additional information on adoptions, call the SPCA at 383-7387. Adoptions occur daily and it is not guaranteed the above featured animals are still available. If they are not, the SPCA has many other loving pets available to suit you and your family. The SPCA is located at 6201 Florin-Perkins Road.





Unique Valentine's gift:

Singing Valentines

By MONICA STARK editor@valcomnews.com

When love is in the air, a beautiful serenade from a Capitolaires Barbershop Chorus quartet might be the perfect surprise for your sweetie. Along with a performance of love songs between "Let Me Call You, Sweetheart" and "Story of the Rose: Heart of my Heart", members will present the lucky one with a silk rose, box of chocolates and a personalized greeting card from the sender. In the past, such gifts have come with marriage proposals, with future grooms on bended knee.

Besides singing to the romantics, the Capitolaires have received requests to perform their Singing Valentines in schools, usually by the request of a teacher for her class and also in businesses where coworkers have gotten to enjoy the harmonizing of a tenor, baritone, bass and lead. Simply put, singer Joe Samora told Valley Community Newspapers: "We do songs for men and women."



Last year, the Capitolaires sold 47 valentines. One quartet had 16 valentines to sing in one day, with 12 being the typical amount. While they generally stick to the greater Sacramento area, Samora said last year they accepted a request from a military officer serving in Afghanistan for a Singing Valentine for his sweetheart who was living in Yuba City. Also in the past, they delivered a Singing Valentine to a staff member in the Mayor's Office and also sang to nurses and donors at BloodSource.

This year, the organization is hoping to sell 60 valentines and performed amongst the five quartets.

With more than 30 members of local singing phenomenon, the Capitolaires turns 70 years old in 2016. Formed in 1946, it is the second oldest barbershop harmony chorus along the Northwest coast with Reno being the first. Besides the annual Singing Valentines fundraising event, the group performs for children and their fam-

ilies each December at the Polar Express event where Santa and trains mixed with Christmas music gets visitors in the holiday spirit.

The Capitolaires belong to the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and are sponsored by Sacramento Metro Arts Commission as they have qualified to receive grants for the past several years. From events like the Singing Valentines and the Polar Express, they raise funds to help pay for teaching four-part harmony to high school boys at a camp in Pollock Pines each September. The boys memorize the words and the notes.

The quartets will deliver the Singing Valentines on Friday Feb. 14 and on Saturday, Feb. 15 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. with a four hour delivery window for \$50. If you're interested in giving the gift of song, all you have to do is call (888) 877-9806 or order at www.capitolaires.org and express where you want the quartet to show up.



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Faces and Places:

Getting ready for Valentine's **Day at Primrose**

Photos by MONICA STARK

Seniors at Primrose enjoy each other's time together as staff decorate the facility for Valentine's Day. Reportedly, there are a number of couples at the center who have been together for many years, some of whom have been together since high school. Primrose is located at 7707 Rush River Dr. For more information, call 392-3510.











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Community briefs:

Continued from page 4

hygiene projects to improve the quality of life for the world's poorest of the poor.

Walkers are asked to bring a container to fill with water at a local event called "Walk 4 Water", which will begin on March 22 at Faith Presbyterian Church, 625 Florin Rd. and will continue to the Cabana Club South, 6615 Gloria Dr. and back for a 2-mile round trip. A shorter loop is available for children and others on the church property.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., and the walk begins at 10 a.m., coinciding with United Nations World Water Day 2014. The cost is \$25 to register, \$10 for children accompanied by an adult. All funds go to Faith Church's mission work in the Abaya Ethiopia Area Development Program water distribution points. Faith Church will skem2510@msn.com

The Values Project at Robbie Waters Pocket Greenhaven Library

On Friday, Jan. 17 library volunteer Erica Jarmillo and Values Project organizer Peter Hassen held a workshop with representatives of the senior class at the School of Engineering and Sciences as a "legacy project" to choose the words to represent the school. The words chosen by the class are (in order popularity): Chivalry, Civility, Individuality, Respect, Journey, Confidence, Achievement, Leadership and Perseverance. "What wonderful words-and a first for many!" said Hassen. These words will be painted in English, as well as French, Italian, German, Spanish, Tagalog, Hmong, Vietnamese, Japanese and Russian. Then on the following week, Hassen held a workshop at the Robvolunteer.





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Time banking: Continued from page 8

that would probably be a good thing. In some ways, it's good to slow down and receive from other people."

"It's about building community. Its about making friends. It's wonderful, she said.

Murray, a Sacramento resident of 23 years, has done contract work for the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op as a cooking teacher and chef, where she happened to friend Rob Lang who has since moved to Boston where time banking is a big deal. "He called me up and said, "you won't be-lieve this thing called time banking here. It's completely amazing. Said you need to check it out." So Murray read the philosophy behind it all and said to herself: "This is really right up my spiritual, emotional and financial highway. So then I tried for a couple of years to get people interested. I did fliering, tabling. I needed people to come on board with me because you need a team to build it, to form it. I was looking for those people, I couldn't find any. I did a presentation at the co-op a couple years ago."

And then she met East Sacramento resident Nanci Kuzins and since September 2012, they have educated themselves and each other on time bank websites. After many presentations and potlucks, they've garnered the support of about

30 people who have committed to pay their dues (which is a sliding scale of \$10 to \$20 a year), which pays for the operation of the computer software program, Community Weaver, which is affiliated with Time Bank USA.

Upon describing the local efforts using the website, Murray said: "We will have a page there and people once they become members, they will be able to bank their hours. Nanci will be the facilitator. She will be the banker so to speak to make sure it's updated. Anybody with a computer can use it, but

you could get time dollars by helping someone else who doesn't have a computer. It's a computer software program. You have a profile. You put your information in there. You can log in and see (for example) oh Amanda, she does child care and Amanda says yes I can babysit. Those hours are in her bank account."

Right now it's just Murray and Kuzins holding team leader positions, but they will be looking for members to get more involved. "I don't know if we will call them team leaders but we will hone out those positions and figure out the format."

Those interested in getting involved have to go through an orientation and tutorial with the software. For more information, contact Murray at emurray68@att.net.



Meet the Poodlums: Sacramento kindie-rock that teaches

By GREG BROWN greg@valcomnews.com

The Poodlums are a playful Sacramento kindie-rock band that perform at libraries, schools, and fundraisers, as well as children's birthday parties.

They're more fun than a bounce house.

The Poodlums are Anne Howard and her husband Jason Wright, who are not hoodlums, but their standard poodles Murray and Dina are. It's how they jokingly came up with the name of their band. Jason said, "I think I was just trying to make Anne laugh and kinda put poodles and hoodlums together." Anne interjected: "And because our poodles act like hoodlums!"

They recently performed a show at the Belle Cooledge Library. The place was packed with children and parents singing along and tapping their toes to songs like "Five Little Pigs".

Five little pink pigs
Living on the farm
The farmer rings the dinner
bell (sou-ee!)
And one runs into the barn.

They have the children gleefully join in on the sou-ee! part. The parents get a kick out of it, too. It's a catchy ditty that's sung partly in Spanish. "Tres Cerditos"! It's also a fun video that's available on Youtube and their website.

Another song they perform live and on the Poodlums disc is Alphabet Soup. The guitar has a Green Day sound to it. It compliments the melodic vocal styling of Anne. Anne wears a red apron and oven mitt while stirring a bowl of soup. Jason dons a tall white chef's hat.

And word to your mother – they also do a little alphabet soup rap with the kids.

The Poodlum's concerts last about an hour and really capture the children's attention, which isn't easy to do. The kids are transfixed on the duo while they sing songs and tell stories. No kids running around, screaming, playing with the curtains. "That is the goal," Jason quipped.

All of the original songs the Poodlums perform have educational value. The married duo are board certified music therapists. They both graduated from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music

in Stockton.

Anne told me, "The way we look at it is, kids are learning and they don't even know it because they're having fun."



Photo by Samantha DeLeon

Jason Wright and Anne Howard, a local kindie-band called The Poodlums, are shown here performing in costume as pirates. The married couple performs at local libraries.

There's a science to the clapping, singing, stomping and storytelling.

Anne went on to say: "Music therapy is built on a principle that music and rhythm organizes motor output. Whether it's clapping your hands or stomping your feet or it's oral motor output where you're singing. All of your learning is going to be measured in those motor output forms and music is a great way to optimize learning and a great way to address skills in cognition, communication, and motor skills."

When The Poodlums got started in 2008, they targeted individuals with special needs. Anne said, "We originally, and we still, target individuals with special needs of all ages, but we found once we got started that children who don't have special needs love the music as well."

They also think it's important for the parents to enjoy the music, too. "We want our stuff to be fun for grown-ups because they're going to be playing our CDs over and over," Jason said.

He told me he grew up watching The Muppet Show and they always had music with a lot of puppets and humor. "That was part of our goal with the Poodlums, to have (something) music parents aren't going to be bored with and something they can enjoy." Jason is the comic relief of the duo. "I try to cater to the adults in the room. Sometimes the



Photo by Samantha DeLeon

kids laugh at the same jokes as the parents and sometimes the jokes are just for the parents. I don't really have a plan, I just do it."

During the Belle Cooledge Library concert, quite a few parents were bopping their heads up and down to the tunes and laughing along with the jokes. That doesn't really happen when Barney, the dinosaur, is playing. Some parents just want to leap out the window when they hear the I Love You song over and over. It can be maddening!

The Poodlums incorporate

The Poodlums incorporate fun theatrics into each song, using props and costumes they discovered at local thrift stores. The old retro Samsonite suitcases they use in their shows were bought at a couple of garage sales. "We are collecting things as we go." Anne said. They're also building up their

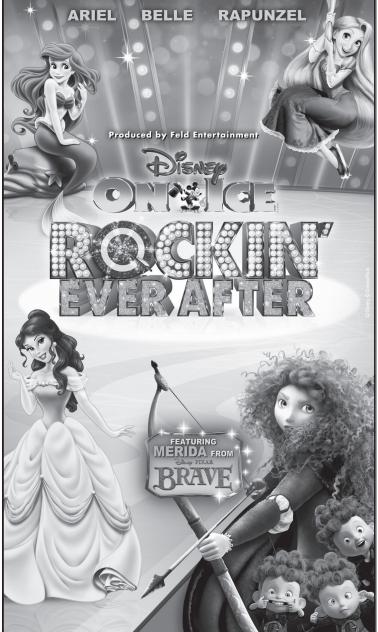
They're also building up their puppet collection. Anne's parents instilled the importance of being

creative with stuffed animals and puppets when she was growing up. "Our stuffed animals each had a different personality and were almost like another family member," she said.

It's obvious The Poodlums love to perform for children. The duo is always smiling and animated on stage. Anne said, "I really love to connect with kids on a level of pure joy and fun where everyone can engage in a musical experience together. Experiences like that have always meant a lot to me as a kid and grownup too. I feel like I'm getting to connect with kids in that important time of life."

The Poodlums will be performing at a local library near you. Like them on Facebook or check out their websitewww.thepoodlums.com for upcoming concert dates, music videos, and merchandise including the Poodlums CD. They're available for birthday parties, too!





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Members of the P.M. Crew stand in front of the new Elks 6 sign they built. Shown in the back row, from the left: Ken Horst, Mack Vance, John Ericson, Joe DiPinto, Clarence Facha, Bob Morlan, Jim von Bergen, John Endres. Shown in the front row, from the left: Ray Nielsen, Mike Johnson, Bob Van Gundy, Bill Sligar, Frank Carlin. The wooden sign was drawn from a sketch on large pieces of wood and each one was cut by the hands of the P.M. Crew. The crew will paint the sign next, color to be determined. The following missed the impromptu picture day, but volunteer often and come to meetings: Steve Clazie, Donna Etheridge, Richard Hanson, Jim Finley, Bill Haertle, Jose Hernandez, James Lange, Ray Martin, Lester Mielcasz, Canaro Smith, Steve Sterns, Harry Yeager.

Meet the P.M. Crew: Retired Elks members keep the lodge running

By MONICA STARK

Come 8 a.m. each Tuesday at the Elks Lodge, No. 6, a crew of about 30 strong seniors enjoy each other's company over doughnuts as they catch up on the latest Elks news and discuss things around the lodge that need fixing. It could seem like a long morning of volunteer work, as the tasks are endless from oven replacements to exercise equipment repair, gardening and keeping up with electrical problems.

Collectively, the volunteers are called the Preventative Maintenance Crew of the Elks Lodge, No. 6.

Undoubtedly, the P.M. Crew helps keep the lodge open, as chair Ray Nielsen estimates the group saves the lodge at least \$100,000 per year in maintenance and repairs, as the facility, located at 6446 Riverside Blvd. costs about \$800 a day to operate.

Some have been volunteering for more than 20 years and others have "just started" about two years ago. But their love for the lodge is the same, as they share a sense of camaraderie with one another. "It's a great organization. It's really wonderful, I think. I've met nice friends here," P.M. Crew member Clarence Facha said.

Added Jim von Bergen: "I mean (The Elks) do something. They don't just sit in here and have parties. They actually do something and that's the idea.

In existence for more than 118 years, the Elks Lodge, No. 6 has continued to be a stalwart for charitable endeavors, most recently being tending to the aid of Andrew Bowring, a 4-year-old-boy with cerebral palsy. With a large hall for community events, an exercise room, a bar and cozy lounge, a sauna and pool, the Elks Lodge, No. 6 is a huge operation that wouldn't be possible to keep open if it wasn't for the P.M. Crew.

Late Elks Lodge No. 6 Exalted Ruler James Harris founded the P.M. Crew in 1980 and chaired it until 1994, at which time John Doherty took over and led it until 2009. Nielsen has been chairing since.

The P.M. Crew just three weeks ago built and installed a large new sign reading: Elks 6. Placed on the front of the building, the hope is passersby don't have to question what the place is. "People didn't know we were here. People kept thinking this was a masonic temple," Nielsen said.

Just another day

Tuesday, Jan. 28 was just a typical morning, as von Bergen and Facha assembled a brand new abdominal bench for the exercise room, Bob Morlan organized the facility's keys, and both Donna Etheridge and Richard Hanson worked in the garden.

The fact the ab bench is brand new surprised von Bergen, as most of the equipment is donated and some of the other pieces of equipment in the gym are quite old but as the cliche goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," but if it is, the PM is on top of it. "I

See P.M. Crew, page 21

P.M. Crew:

Continued from page 20

have some that are broken and they wind up out back, so crew members take the busted pieces outside to fix. That's our job – to repair things. That's why we're the Preventative Maintenance Crew," Nielsen said.

Asked where some of the old pieces end up, von Bergen laughed and said: "It's all here. Either you find them on the street or you find them here."

Von Bergen's sense of humor and cheery personality is not one of a kind in this group of energetic worker bees.

Frank Carlin, who was cleaning ceiling vents that day, keeps to a schedule as particulate matter accumulates over time. Asked what he enjoys most about being a part of the P.M. Crew, he said without hesitation: "The food! They feed us. Doughnuts, coffee, all that good stuff. Around noontime they usually fix us some leftovers from other days. I just come for the food."

Meanwhile Morlan was organizing keys, making sure none are missing. "It's a pain," Morlan said. Retired from administrative work, Morlan said he's learning from others in the P.M. Crew. "I enjoy going after parts as a gofer and then whatever needs to be done, even down to raking leaves. I also do quick purchases. The other guys who are more experienced order online and so forth. If they're working on something like today and need something, I'll go get it for them. That's my main job. It doesn't take any brains that way," he said.

"All important jobs"

Retired from various professions, spanning from blue collar to white collar, some of the volunteers are more skilled than others, but the crew is non-discriminate. As Nielsen put it: "They're all important jobs."

Added Morlan: "After I joined (the Elks), I talked to three or four guys who were P.M. members and I decided I'd like to try that. I'm not skilled, but I like what I'm doing. My wife told me if I was going to do any more volunteering, we'd have to have a talk. That's all I know. I just enjoy what I'm doing. Most of them know what they like to do and are very skilled at doing it. We've had a good welder, two good electricians, which if we didn't have them, we'd be (in trouble)."

With Facha each morning checking the chemicals in the pool, there's Bob Van Gundy who helps keep it sparkly clean. Van Gundy, who swam and played water polo in college at Sacramento State University. "I loved it. I did. I swim as much



A member of the P.M. Crew is cleaning the floors of the large hall inside of the Elks Lodge No. 6, located at 6446 Riverside Blvd.





(above left) "The recycling guy" poses for a photo. The Lodge recycles!
(above right) Frank Carlin, who was cleaning ceiling vents that day, keeps to a schedule as particulate matter accumulates over time. Asked what he enjoys most about being a part of the P.M. Crew, he said without hesitation: "The food! They feed us. Doughnuts, coffee, all that good stuff. Around noontime they usually fix us some leftoyers from other days."

as I can now, but it's kind of funny around here. It's not my time anymore. My time is devoted to everybody else. If nobody is around the pool, I'll go in, but if there's someone there, they'd say: 'you need to do this; you need to do that.' This morning, for example, there was a guy in the spa. He said the tile on the sides of the spa were dirty and needs to be cleaned. And I said, 'all right. I'll go get your brush.' And he got mad."

While the Facha and Van Gundy do a lot to keep the pool clean, Nielsen said there are some swimmers who swim every afternoon. Then when they get done, they get brushes and brush down the sides, he said.

One of the major accomplishments the P.M. Crew includes the installation of solar panels on roof four years ago. The crew realized the panels were not in an optimum location on the roof, so about a year ago, they moved them around. The new panels provide the facility with a savings of \$100 or more a month, Nielsen estimated. "Hopefully we have a lot of savings. We have a swimming pool. It's warm like that all year long. We had to buy all the

solar, but the P.M. Crew did all the measuring, cutting. It was quite a project. We had six or seven or eight people on there."

Not all of the work the P.M. Crew completes is indoors, in fact, much is outside in the garden.

Donna Etheridge, the only lady on the PM Crew, has been helping out since 2002. Etheridge recalled how she got her start with the P.M. Crew: "The gentleman who took care of all the roses became too old to do that. In the beginning, I worked with him and he finally said he couldn't do it anymore."

Working alongside her partner Richard Hanson, Etheridge takes care of all of the fauna every Tuesday. Hanson described the weekly ritual: "You spend most of the time standing on your head because you come down low and you're cutting this and cutting that and pulling weeds, cleaning out leaves, so you're bent over a good share of your time."

Despite that, Etheridge urges: "We're doing good, we both are, but, I can't kneel any longer because I had a knee replacement."

Retired from aviation career Navy and having grown up on a farm, von Bergen explained the importance of fixing things as needed. "If something breaks, you fix it. You haven't got time to call somebody. So you learn these little tricks of the trade and, of course, that was passed down from grandfather to grandfather."

While von Bergen acknowledges his skills, he doesn't expect recognition, though he and three other members of the P.M. Crew, Joe DiPinto, Facha, Nielsen, were awarded the President's Award for Service last year. "I have certain talents like everybody in the P.M. Crew. We give back. We've done all of these things all of our lives and now we're retired and now we're paying back and doing volunteer service," von Bergen said.

Members of the P.M. Crew include: Ken Horst, Mack Vance, John Ericson, Joe DiPinto, Clarence Facha, Bob Morlan, Jim von Bergen, John Endres, Ray Nielsen, Mike Johnson, Bob Van Gundy, Bill Sligar, Frank Carlin, Steve Clazie, Donna Etheridge, Richard Hanson, Jim Finley, Bill Haertle, Jose Hernandez, James Lange, Ray Martin, Lester Mielcasz, Canaro Smith, Steve Sterns and Harry Yeager.

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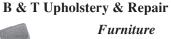
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Dominique Piana, Harpist Greg Allen Friedman, Tenor In concert on

Sunday, February 9th, 2014 at 4:00pm

All Saints Episcopal Church 2076 Sutterville Road, Sacramento



\$10 at the door • Overflow parking available across Sutterville Rd. at City College

CALENDAR

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

Editor's note: City Councilmember Kevin Mc-Carty told the East Sacramento News the city council has likely postponed the vote for the controversial student housing project, Campus Crest, to Jan. 14. It was previously scheduled for the Dec. 10 meeting.

ONGOING

AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers for tax assistance/preparation and leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at NoCalTaxAide@Outlook.com or visit website at; www.aarp.org/taxaide

Brain Gymnasium

Exercise your mind and have some fun at this on-going Brain Gymnasium class! Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 9:20 a.m. Thursdays. \$6 per class. Call 441-1015 for more

Davis Art Center invites teen girls to write and publish

The Davis Art Center is offering a sixweek creative writing class for girls

ages 13-18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays starting February 11. The class will offer a positive, supportive space for girls who love reading and writing and are interested in discovering and developing their individual voices. Participants will use short stories by a diverse range of contemporary women writers as jumping off points for their own writing sessions. Each student will pick her best writing to include in a classproduced literary magazine. The class will be taught by Elise Winn Pollard, who earned her M.A. in creative writing from UC Davis. The fee is \$95 for Art Center members and \$105 for the general public. To enroll, stop by the Art Center at 1919 F. St., call (530) 756-4100 or register online at www.davisartcenter.org. Students must be registered at least two weeks before the first class session.

Gentle Qi Gong

Learn powerful relaxation techniques reduce stress, reduce physical pain and emotional suffering, lower blood pressure, increase immune response and improve balance. Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 2 to 3 p.m., Wednesdays. \$7 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

Attn. students: Submit now for water efficiency video contest

High school students can win cash prizes and the chance to view their video on the Raley Field Jumbotron by entering the 2014 Water Spots Video Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media in Education (MIE) program, challenges teens to create compelling and original 25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on a select water efficiency topic. The 2014 water efficiency theme is: Don't be a gutter flooder: Prevent overspray and runoff. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. Finalist videos will be displayed on the Ralev Field Iumbotron screen and winners announced at a Sacramento River Cats game in April 2014. Winning students and their teachers will also get cash prizes. The grand prize winner's spot may become part of RWA's 2014 television ad campaign. Submissions due Feb. 28. Visit www.BeWaterSmart.info for more information and tips on using water more efficiently and to submit entries or get more information about contest rules, judging and prizes, visit www. sacbee.com/water-spots

California Youth Basketball League taking applications

CYBL is a non-profit year round league for ages 4 through 18 that prides itself on being well organized that aims to develop basketball skills, sportsmanship and selfesteem through coaches, gym official and organizers. Visit www.cybhoops.com or call 391-3900.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on Fridays at 7 a.m. Topical weekly speakers and first meal for visitors on us. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/ 50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com. Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

The Sacramento Capitolaires meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: www.capitolaires.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaires.org

Artisan holds Food Drive

Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riverside Blvd.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento South meetings

A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group

meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

FEBRUARY

Sacramento Community Concert Association performance

Feb. 22: Celebrating Black History Month, SCCA presents Tenor Darron Flagg & Soprano Candace Johnson and The UC Berkeley Gospel Chorus at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 1300 N St. Singer-actor Darron Flagg is recognized as a standout professional bel-canto tenor, lauded for his heart-felt performances. A few of Mr. Flagg's engagements include the Lincoln Center, theaters in Eastern Europe, Walt Disney Hall, as well as the San Francisco and Sacramento Opera companies. Candace Johnson is a dynamic vocal artist who has experience in musical theater, television commercials, poplar songwriting, and piano performance. Among her many accomplishments, she held the title of Ms. Black Tennessee, and she was a finalist in the National Leontyne Price Competition. The UC Berkeley Gospel Chorus started in the 1970s as an informal student activity. Since 2007, director D. Mark Wilson has taken the Gospel Chorus in new directions, building a repertoire, which includes traditional and contemporary gospel music, spirituals, and classically influenced gospel anthems. Regular subscription: \$90, Group discount (8 or more people): \$75, Students subscription: \$45, Single Ticket: \$25. For more information, contact Sacramento Community Concert Association www.sccaconcerts.org; info@ scc.aconcerts.org; 400-4634.

2014 Polar Plunge: Polar Plunge so a Special Olympics athlete can compete

Feb. 15: Swim at the Sacramento State Aquatic Center to benefit Special Olympic Northern California & Nevada! This is the first plunge in Sacramento. Know that while the water may be cold, you're Plunging so that 19,000 Special Olympics athletes in your community may compete. 1901 Hazel Avenue in Gold River! Every Plunger is required to raise a minimum of \$125, which sponsors one Special Olympics athlete for a sports season. You will be fundraising to support Special Olympics Northern California & Nevada. Visit http://www.kintera.org/ faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1080725# for more information.

Sacramento International of Sacramento, Inc. annual crab fiesta

Feb. 15: All you can eat crab, silent auction, dessert bar auction, live auction; Saint Mary's Giovanni Hall, 58th and M streets. Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per ticket and funds are used for services to support vulnerable women and children. 2013-14 funds support Tubman House, a program of Waking the Village. The program provides 18 months transitional housing and other life skills training and support for local women and children. Call 709-6748, or visit the Crab Fiesta website at www. crabfiestasac.org to purchase tickets. Visit us at www.soroptimistsacramento.org.

Camellia Chapter, Embroiderers' Guild of America at their meeting

Feb. 18: Starting at 7 p.m., SMUD Building, 6201 S Street for a hands-on program on Assisi needlework. Guests welcome. Free. 223-2751.

Casa Garden 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun' lunch and Red Hat fashion show

Feb. 26: "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" lunch and Red Hat fashion show at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. seatings at the Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. Entree choices: Chicken Stuffed with Spinach and Smoked Gouda or Black Bean Tostada Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast; dessert: Chocolate Torte with Raspberry Coulis -- \$22 per person, includes tax and gratuity. First-come, first-served group reservations by one person, one check. Reservations a must -- call (916) 452-2809. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

March

Sacramento Community Concert Association performance

March 22: SCCA presents A Night At The Movies With Pipe Organist Dave Moreno at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 1300 N St. Complemented by emcee Matias Bombal, organist-entertainer Dave Moreno will thrill you as he accompanies popular silent films on Westminster's grand 3000-pipe organ. Don't miss this extraordinary event. Regular subscription: \$90, Group discount (8 or more people): \$75, Students subscription: \$45, Single Ticket: \$25. For more information, contact Sacramento Community Concert Association www.sccaconcerts.org; info@scc.aconcerts. org; 400-4634

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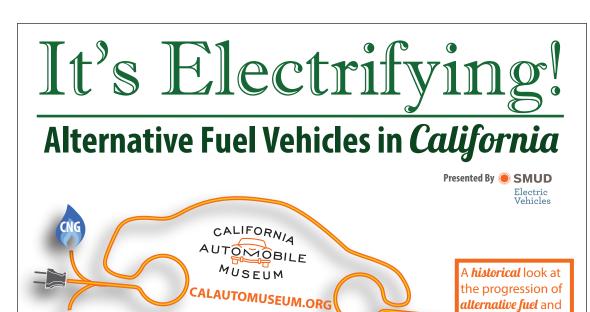


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1910 Queen Anne Victorian on 2.1 acres! This 3 bed, 3 baths, features separate laundry, basement, 3 car shop and additional 1 car garage. Frontal views of the Sacramento River and rear views of Bogel Vineyards. You can have your own private boat dock! \$599,000 - Terry Mulligan 768-3796

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\$799,999 - Neal Alie 224-9640

ROSEMONT

This 4 bed, 3 bath, well maintained home features a sparkling built in swimming pool, new carpet, new paint, newer roof, dual pane windows throughout, newer exterior paint & tons of closet space. Hurry and see this great floor plan! \$250,000 - Brandon Shepard 479-1936

SOUTH LAND PARK



This 4 bed, 3 bath home features a large kitchen, tile flooring in the kitchen, entry, laundry room & baths, beautiful wooden floors in the livingroom, family room, bedrooms & hallway. Good sized master w/jetted tub & separate shower. **\$525,000**

Karla Oppliger 799-0010

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This 4 bed, 2 ½ bath home is located on one of the largest lots in the community and features laminate flooring, Granite kitchen countertops, separate living & family rooms, double sided fireplace and 1 bed and 1 bath downstairs. **\$409,000**

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Bill Bonner (916) 320-1888



11:00 am – 9:30 pm Daily

GreenhavenPocketHomes.com





RIVERGATE HOME

Wonderful four bedroom home on a quiet street. This home Gracefully appointed, South Land Park 3 bedroom 2 bath home. has a great floor plan with lots of light! Private living room. kitchen family room combination and spacious master suite. Sliding glass doors in family room and master suite leading to generous sized backyard. \$329,000

PAM VANDERFORD 799-7234



STYLISH AND ENERGY EFFICIENT

The home combines natural elements of wood, masonry and light to create alluring spaces throughout. Lush landscaping, pool and koi pond and spacious 2 bedroom guest cottage. Comme see the magic! \$667,000

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288



QUALITY WEBER BUILT HOME

4 bedroom 2½ home on almost 1/2 acre lot with RV access. Gorgeous remodeled items: kitchen, baths, flooring, imperfect smooth finished walls, windows, sliders, counter tops, custom cabinets, stainless steel appliances, high-end granite, designer lights, fireplace & more. Tons of quality upgrades! \$569,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



GREENHAVEN HALF-PLEX

Quality Parker built half-plex in highly desired neighborhood. Nice floor plan with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 car garage. Dual pane windows, covered patio and spacious family room. Down the street from the greenbelt for biking or walking. Close to shopping, freeway and downtown. \$175,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



S. LAND PARK HILLS DUPLEX

This is a wonderful duplex in a great location! Spacious 1500+ square feet units, 3 bedrooms 2 baths with formal living room, family room and master suite on each side. Central heat and air, dishwasher, disposal, garages and small yards. \$400,000

PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715



HOLLYWOOD PARK

Welcome to one of the finest streets in Hollywood Park! Great curb appeal and a huge professionally landscaped backyard. This adorable 2 bedroom home offers plantation shutters, an updated bath, California Custom closets and a home theater center ready in the living room. Newer HVAC. \$290,000

KAREN SANDSTROM 803-0530



LOT ON THE RIVER

Must see this beautiful lot! A rare opportunity to build your own home on a riverfront lot in the Little Pocket area close to the freeway and downtown. Riverside Blvd close to 35th Ave. Go by, walk around the lot and enjoy the Sacramento River. Call agent if you have questions. \$279,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



HOLLYWOOD PARK CHARM

Hard to find updated 3 bedroom charmer with central heat and air. Country kitchen is large with granite counters, new cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Dual pane windows, hardwood floors and a wonderful fireplace in the living room. Big backyard a garden delight! \$235,900

LISA MCCAULEY 601-5474



WONDERFUL WEST SAC

Wonderful single-level home in a quiet cul-de-sac, 4 bedrooms. 21/2 baths on almost a quarter acre. Granite counters and glass subway tiled back splash set the kitchen apart. Solar heat for pool and house (annual electric bill \$300 - \$500!). \$430,000

> **NANCY WEGGE 600-5458 LISA MARTIS 612-7548**

for current home listings, please visit:

Dunnigan Realtors.com 916.484.2030

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