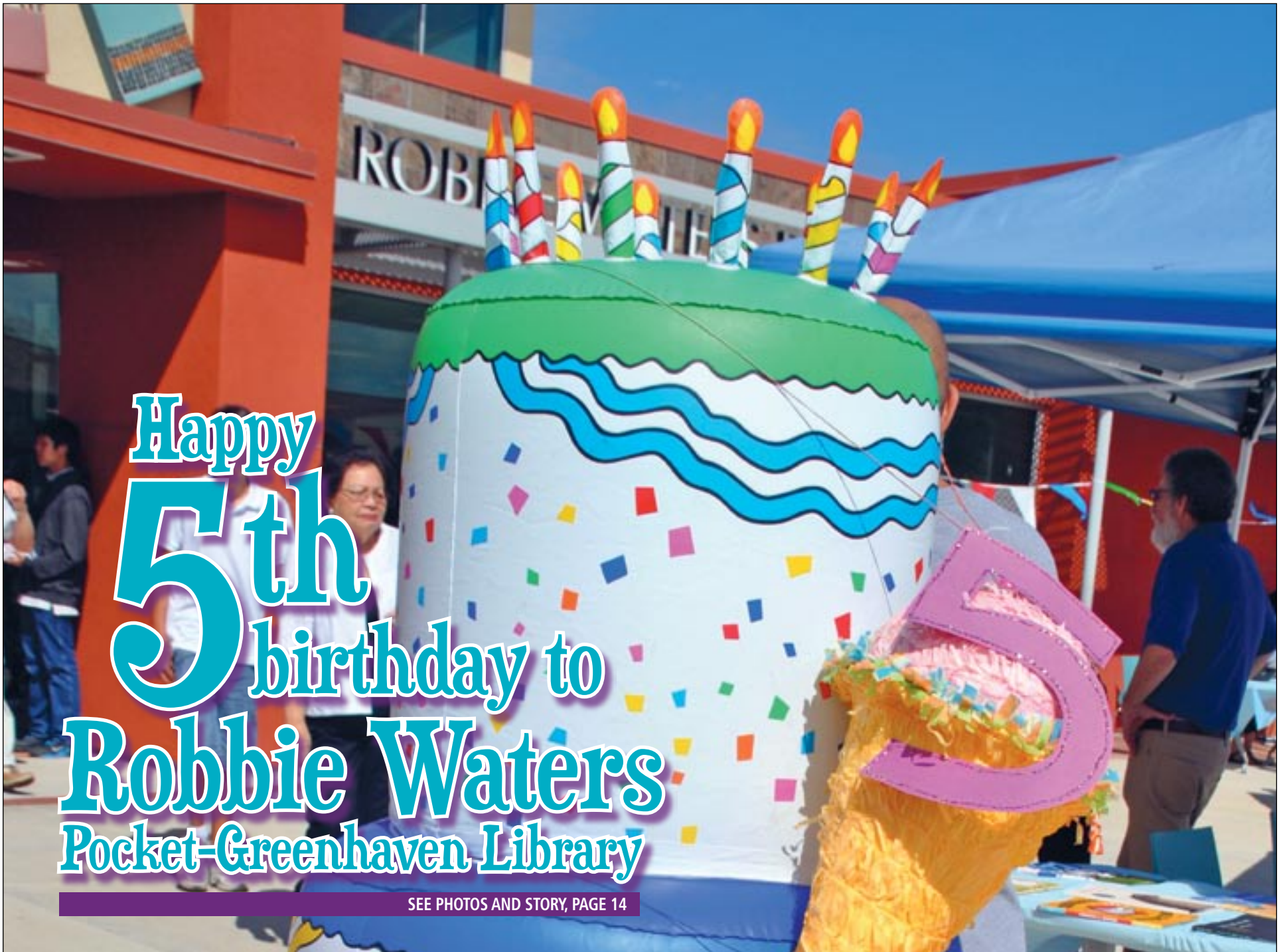


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Genevieve Didion dedicated her life to education

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FROM YOUR COUNCILMEMBER



A message by RICK JENNINGS

The Pocket/Greenhaven community is unique in more ways than one. The sense of community developed through our parks, schools, parkway and library as communal gathering places are things that all of us treasure and enjoy. The opportunities here are abundant and varied. For me, the natural geographic limits of this community contribute directly to our shared quality of life.

This unique limitation placed upon us through the boundaries of the river and Interstate 5 gives us a compact, livable community. This geography also limits the number of people that utilize our roads. We are blessed that our community is a destination in and of itself, not a halfway point in a morning commute. As we travel along our roads, those that travel with us are more likely than not our neighbors. Driving to the store, the library or school, it is our neighbors that we see as they walk or drive to their destinations.

In traveling throughout the district, the most consistent issue that I hear concern about is related to traffic. Not that there is too much, but rather the concern about the speeding, the failure to stop at stop signs, and the conflicts with pedestrians and bicyclists.

See Jennings, page 3

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Jennings:

Continued from page 2

These are the top complaints that I hear as I meet with our fellow residents.

In response, I have been working with our Sacramento Police Department (SPD) to address these issues. But, because these are our neighbors, I did not want to simply blanket the area with traffic citations. A better approach is to focus on education first and enforcement second. Using this approach, the SPD increased traffic enforcement starting in May and we were able to confirm that the vast majority of the violations are from our fellow residents. To quote Walt Kelly, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

The increased traffic enforcement centered on areas of our community that have received the most complaints to my office, 311 and directly to SPD are: speeding on Greenhaven, Florin or Pocket/Riverside, and failures to stop at the four-way stop sign at Pocket/Park Riviera. Throughout this process statistics were kept on the home address of the driver when

the car was stopped. In all of these targeted areas of enforcement, on average, 80-90 percent of the drivers stopped lived within the Pocket/Greenhaven community.

In the beginning, SPD looked at educating the drivers. Throughout this process, the focus has been on education to change behaviors first, leading to enforcement as time progressed. Ultimately, traffic citations were issued to those that were in the more egregious violation category.

While education and enforcement is important, we also need to look into traffic controls throughout our community. To this end, I am working with our Public Works staff to look at our roads and bike trails for improvements that might be constructed to increase safety for the traveling public. An example is the intersection of Florin and Greenhaven. SPD and our Public Works Department are working together to find ways to decrease the conflicts between vehicle and walkers and bicyclists that utilize this intersection.

Curbing speeding is of particular concern to me. While

traveling down Riverside/Pocket, I am often passed by people clearly exceeding the 40 mph speed limit. There is a nearly a two mile section of this road that is used like freeway. Motorists that adhere to the speed limit are the minority of the traveling public. Rather, they are passed by our fellow residents exceeding the speed limit. But, the more disturbing trend is the number of motorists that do not stop at the stops signs. For example, one traffic officer issued eight citations for failure to stop at the corner of Park Riviera and Riverside in just one morning shift.

Which leads me to my request: We need your help in identifying areas of our community that need additional traffic enforcement or might need to be looked at for improvements. Your direct feedback will help me in my discussion with City staff as we look to make these improvements. Please visit my web site at <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Mayor-Council/Districts/District7/Contact> and give me your thoughts and ideas on how we can improve this situation.

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Genevieve Didion dedicated her life to education

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
 lance@valcomnews.com

Genevieve Didion K-8 School at 6490 Harmon Drive has been a part of the community for nearly four decades. But as time continues to pass by, there are increasing numbers of people who are unaware why the school received its name.

A question that many of those people have is "Who was Genevieve Didion?"

First of all, considering that Genevieve had a school named after her, one very important answer to that question is that she was a person who dedicated many years of her life to education.

In 1942, Genevieve was appointed as a member of

the Sacramento City Board of Education. And she would eventually become the senior member of that board and serve as the board's president on three occasions.

Altogether Genevieve would serve on the board for 32 years, as she was reappointed for multiple terms.

In her own words, Genevieve, in 1967, listed what she believed were the most important functions and responsibilities of a school board member.

That list reads:

- 1) To insist on sound fiscal and budget policies in order that the pupils and citizens generally will receive the most for each tax dollar.
- 2) To see that the schools are operated within the legal framework of the California state code.
- 3) To make basic rules and policies by which the schools may operate. These policies are then used by the administrative staff to handle specific situations as they arise.
- 4) To scrutinize periodically the instructional program of the schools as the staff presents evaluations in terms of facts and figures.
- 5) To represent the entire community, not merely a single section or group.
- 6) To continue to strive for a smaller class load and maintain a well-trained and experienced staff of administrators and teachers to whom go the preponderant credit for the ef-



Photo courtesy of Genevieve Didion K-8 School
 Genevieve Didion (1896-1974) served on the Sacramento City Board of Education from 1932 to 1974.

iciency and success of our school district.

7) To keep the welfare and best interests of all children uppermost in our minds and provide the necessary tools for a first-class education.

In addition to her service as a member of the Sacramento City Board of Education, Genevieve also worked with Senator Earl Desmond in the establishment of Sacramento State College (today's Sacramento State University) as a four-year college, served as president of the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home and director of the Eaglet Theater.

She was also a strong supporter of the Girl Scouts of America.

As a completely local story, the story of Genevieve began with her birth in the capital city on August 30, 1896.

The first home of Genevieve, who was the last

See Didion, page 5



Didion:

Continued from page 4

born of the six children of John and Molly (Shields) Kiernan, was located at 904 N St.

After attending local schools, Genevieve, who was known as Jenny or Gen to her close friends, worked in the Buffalo Brewing Co.'s office, and was later employed as an assistant of the county clerk and a court reporter in the county court house.

Genevieve became part of the Didion family in August 1924 through her marriage to Joseph Frank Didion, a widower and father of two sons.

Despite that union, those boys resided with Joseph Frank's sister, Pearl Didion.

Joseph Frank's first wife, Ethel Mira Reese Didion, fell victim of the flu pandemic on Nov. 14, 1918.

At the time of his marriage to Genevieve, Joseph Frank was employed as a teller at the California National Bank (formerly the National Bank of D.O. Mills & Co.) at the northwest corner of 7th and J streets. He would later become the Sacramento County tax and license collector.

Genevieve and Joseph Frank had three children – Mary, Jane and Richard.

The Didions resided at 1011 1/2 23rd St. from about 1924 to about 1927, at 3323 Curtis Park Drive from about 1927 to about 1928, and at 1131 O St. from about 1928 to about 1932.

A Victorian house at 1213 O St. was the next home of the Didions from about 1932 until about 1951.

Joseph Frank died on March 20, 1953 at the age of 70.

It was also around that time when Genevieve began living in her final residence at 2000 22nd St. That house was purchased in about 1950 by Frank Reese Didion (1908-1992), who was the father of author Joan Didion.

On May 26, 1961, Genevieve, who was Joan's step-grandmother, was honored by the Soroptimist Club of Sacramento, which presented her with its Woman of the Year award during a luncheon at the Elks Temple at 921 11th St.

The award recognized Genevieve for her role in education, as well as her involvement in historical preservation.

An article about her Woman of the Year honor in the May 28, 1961 edition of The Sacramento Bee, notes: "Mrs. Didion has been dedicated to the preservation of the California redwoods and worked for legislation to preserve the trees in groves purchased by civic and fraternal groups and individuals. Through her efforts, there is a grove of live oak trees on the State Fair ground (at Stockton Boulevard and Broadway), a camellia grove in Capitol Park and living tree memorials at Sutter's Fort and at McClellan and Mather Air Force bases."

She also worked with the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West to have a pioneer memorial plaque placed at the state Capitol,

and made contributions to the efforts to have Admission Day declared a state holiday and to recognize, "I Love You, California," as the official state song.

Furthermore, Genevieve, who was a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, was involved in lobbying for the California state flag to be flown with the U.S. flag over all public buildings in the state, and fundraising efforts for the creation and placement of the Pony Express statue in Old Sacramento.

Genevieve died on March 14, 1974 at the age of 77.

In honor of Genevieve's dedication to education, a decision was made to name a school in her honor.

According to the Sacramento City Unified School District, the school was constructed in 1974.

The school opened as a K-6 school with 210 students in November 1976, following a

delay in the school's schedule that was caused by a district electricians strike.

During that strike, the children who were to attend Didion school began the school year at Caroline Wenzel, John Cabrillo, Bear Flag and Alice Birney elementary schools.

It was not until April 28, 1981 that the school was officially dedicated.

Among those in attendance at that dedication were Genevieve's children, Richard and Marion Didion Armstrong, Superintendent E. Tom Gignoni and Didion Principal Roy Merkel.

Didion Principal Norm Policar, after learning a few more details about the life of Genevieve Didion last week, said, "We've always known that Genevieve Didion was an active board member, but we had no idea of the depth and duration of her commitment. Multiple terms on the school board are a remarkable achievement nowadays, but for Ms. Didion to serve for 32 years and preside as president (of that board) three times is truly incredible. Her legacy is a real source of pride for our school, as well as for the entire city of Sacramento."

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Neighbors, community members and business chime in on minimum wage discussion

As discussions have been heating up and a decision will soon be formed regarding the possibility of raising Sacramento's minimum wage, Valley Community Newspapers reached out to neighbors, the business community, labor, and restaurants to see where they stand on the issue. Between business and labor everyone seems to agree that if an increase passes that it keep up with inflation to help business and its workers' budgets. But, what does that really mean in terms of dollar amounts?

This publication also spoke with Jovan Agee, community relations director for the office of Mayor Kevin Johnson, to hear about what's been going on at the closed-door Income Inequality Task Force meetings. (The task force will submit a final report to the mayor and city

council that recommends a specific plan on whether to increase the local minimum wage and by what amount at a meeting later this month.)

Agee said the vibe at a previous meeting was one with task members rolling up their sleeves, trying to figure out what is an adequate amount that will not adversely affect business. In the closed-door setting, Agee said members were able to discuss the issue without being in the public eye and turning it into a political issue. While they did not come up with a number yet, labor has maintained that an adequate number is \$13.50 to start immediately with increases over time, meanwhile business he said is saying \$11. "The goal is to come to a tangible proposal that has been vetted by business, and citizens and that has been politically pressure tested. There is a desire for people to get on the same side to get on the same page... I am confident that it will be something that Sacramento will be proud of," Agee said.

Metro Chamber

In a joint effort, the Metro Chamber of Commerce's Colleen Spitz, Chris Worden and Elizabeth Overton provided VCN with responses to the following questions:

VCN: What do you think about the possibility of raising the minimum wage?

Metro Chamber: The Metro Chamber is currently serving on the Mayor's Income Inequality Task Force, whose goal is to make a recommendation to the city council on whether a minimum wage increase makes sense for the city and if so, how it should be implemented. We continue to advocate on behalf of our 1,700 Metro Chamber businesses and our 21-organization coalition, Keep Sacramento Working, to ensure that if an increase is adopted, we don't undercut the economic recovery taking place downtown and throughout the region.

VCN: Do you support it? Why or why not?

Metro Chamber: Many of the Metro Chamber's members have expressed serious reservations about an increase until we can see what impact the state increase to \$10/hour will have on our regional economy. Right now, our job growth in Sacramento is happening largely in restaurants and hospitality, and a city-only increase puts us at a competitive disadvantage that could stifle that growth.

VCN: Do you think that it would be beneficial to the city as a whole? Why or why not?

Metro Chamber: A city-specific increase is counterproductive to building a strong regional economy. At a time when we are trying to create economic momentum by bringing in new businesses and helping business expansion throughout the six-county capital region, we are at risk of creating a situation where a company can move across the street or across the river (out of the city) and have a competitive advantage over every business that remains in City lines. We have to bear in mind that residents don't shop and eat based on city or county lines. But they

may have to select restaurants or retail outlets based on location if commodities become more expensive in one location over another to offset the increase to minimum wage.

If you do think a minimum wage raise is needed, how do you think it should be implemented? (Should it be gradual to \$15 an hour?)

Metro Chamber: If a minimum wage increase must be adopted, it has to be phased in very gradually to ensure businesses can adapt and consumers will not disappear, which would hurt our job creation. Also, we need to ensure that all income an employee makes, including tips and commissions, can be counted. If we are going to drive up costs on items like groceries for all consumers, including seniors on fixed incomes, we should limit those increases by ensuring raises go to those with actual need. Additionally, we should also look at exemptions for non-profits (who can't pass on cost increases) and a youth wage to ensure young people can get the skills they need to improve their lifetime earning capability.

See Wage, page 8

Meet Pocket artists at this year's Sac Open Studios

By BONNIE OSBORNE
Special to the Pocket News

Sac Open Studios, a two-weekend tour of 134 artist studios and galleries throughout Sacramento County, will take guests to a packed schedule of exhibits, performances, demonstrations and interactive events—as well as the too-rare opportunity to visit and interact with artists where they live and work. The self-guided tour will take place Sept. 12-13 and Sept. 19-20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors will find South Land Park ceramicist Kris Marubayashi (krismarubayashi.com) in her backyard studio where it blends naturally with the Japanese rock gardens in her front and back yards. She describes herself as a "returning ceramicist" because she took 30 years off, then returned to it about 10 years ago when she was in her 50s. Upon her return she made the decision to use an electric kiln rather than the labor- and time-intensive wood-fired kiln.

"When I started I did functional work, bowls and plates," she says. "Over time I have been more focused on texture and form, and the issue of function has become very much secondary."

She works in a variety of styles. "I start because something happens that I haven't planned, and I just go with it," she says. "In all parts of my life I have never been a planner, I have always just gone with what seems right."

"Most people want things to look a certain way. I have a general idea what I want to do, but I am constantly in conversation with the clay and responding to the clay... When I was in China almost a decade ago I pulled some clay apart and loved the texture, the variations of that texture.... If you look at the paper clay pieces they are very feathery because there is fiber in the clay."

Marubayashi also is a musician and has played piano and cello. She currently plays taiko drums and shamisen, a traditional 3-stringed Japanese instrument similar to a banjo, performing in school arts education programs with the multi-generational Tsubaki ensemble.

The two-weekend Sac Open Studios tour is organized geographically. Weekend One, Sept. 12-13, features artists located west of I-80 and Highway 99; Weekend Two, Sept. 19-20, features artists east of 80/99, plus one each in Galt and Herald. Marubayashi will be featured in Weekend One of the tour, and is # 127 in the tour

catalog (<http://vergeart.com/sac-open-studios-2015/guide>).

This is Marubayashi's third year participating in the tour. "It's part of my push to become more visible as an artist," she says. "What's really important is it expands our visibility. You reach people we would never reach otherwise. I have met so many people, fellow artists as well as buyers."

"On the other side I think it is really important for any city to support the arts. I am concerned about what's happening in schools without the arts in them, and what does that mean for our society, because it's the soul of our society. I think that whatever can be done to encourage, not just looking at art, but also, give it a try. You find out about things in your neighborhood.... It helps build community."

Established in 2006 by Center for Contemporary Art Sacramento (CCAS) as a woman-focused exhibition at the California Museum, Sac Open Studios has grown to become the largest open-studio event in Sacramento County. For the second year, the tour will be produced by Verge Center for the Arts following its merger with CCAS in 2014.

"One of the most exciting aspects of Sac Open Studios is the opportunity it provides visitors to meet and interact with the artists where they work and live," says Verge Foundation Executive Director Liv Moe. "It gives people a chance to buy art directly from the artists and maybe even discover and explore parts of Sacramento County where they've never been before."

Verge will kick off 2015 Sac Open Studios with a Launch Party at its gallery and studio project at 625 S Street on Thursday, Sept. 10, 5 to 9 p.m., featuring the Preview Exhibition, a "teaser" display of art from each of the 134 participating artists. A prize wheel and art supply giveaways from Event Partner Blick Art Materials will add to the fun.

Free special events include a reception at Warehouse Artist Lofts on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2 to 5 p.m., featuring live performances and exhibits by WAL residents; Sac Open Studios Nightcap, Saturday, Sept. 12, 6 to 10 p.m., hosted by Beatnik Studios and featuring performances by Capitol Dance Company and Aerial Evolution and music by Honeyock and Alison Wonderland; and Art Quad by DISPLAY: California Saturday, Sept. 19, which will transform an empty parking lot into an "interactive quad of activ-



Here is tile work by Kris Marubayashi, a neighborhood artist who will be showing work at this year's Sac Open Studios event. In this piece, tiles are available mounted individually, as doubles, and as triples. Each tile is approximately a 4-inch square.

ities" celebrating Sacramento's robust design scene. Beatnik Studios will host a special project, "Musical Chairs by Robert Ortbal," the collective title for two exhibitions of sculpture, drawings and installation works opening simultaneously in September at Beatnik and JayJay Galleries. Tour hours for Musical Chairs are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

University Art will feature juried selections from the tour by Manager Dave Saalsaa at its 2601 J Street location during September, and Blick Art Materials will feature interactive art activities led by Verge studio residents and teaching artists Interval Press and James Angello at its Sept. 19 Grand Opening at 905 Howe Avenue.

Would-be artists will find lots of ways to get involved, including demonstrations of letterpress printing, digital drawing, monotype, Raku firing, sculptural welding, portrait sitting, recycled paper-making, encaustics, and kids and adult gourd projects.

The mission of the non-profit Verge Center for the Arts (vergeart.com) is to expose the Sacramento art region to internationally recognized contemporary art, while providing vital resources to local career and emerging artists. For more information and a full schedule of exhibits, demonstrations and special events, visit <http://vergeart.com/sac-open-studios-2015/guide>.

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KELLER WILLIAMS

Wage:

Continued from page 6

The following are some comments taken from local business owners and nonprofit directors.

Burnie Lenau — President, Lawnman, Inc. and Carmichael Café & Deli

"I have a few minutes in between lunch and dinner hour to hopefully work through some thoughts I have on this issue from my perspective as a small business owner in the landscape industry and food service.

"I believe raising the minimum wage much higher if at all would be a mistake from a number of different angles. I don't believe it will solve the problem they hope to address which is to bring people who are on the low end of the pay scale to the middle class or even lower middle class. It will cause unintended consequences to low income people and restrict the ability for employers to employ young adults which is why minimum wage was put in place from the start, thus causing more teenagers to be unemployed and likely raising crime amongst that age group. Prices would more than likely increase across the board for goods and services which then again leaves the lowest paid among us having trouble to pay their way. It would also knock out a num-

ber of people who presently qualify for some types of public assistance as many of the programs are based solely on your dollar earnings. Another thing that is already occurring in the fast food and the food service industry is automation thus completely eliminating entry level jobs, which will increase unemployment and cost thousands if not millions of dollars in job loss.

"It would cost the city millions of dollars in wages and salaries if they raised the minimum wage and thus they would need to raise taxes again or cut services and employees. It would also increase the pay of most other city employees who are presently at or near the low end of the pay scale along with most others salaries/wages. It would also put the city at a competitive disadvantage with the surrounding cities and county that have other wage structures. How would a business handle his/her business if they work daily in more than just the city boundaries? For these and other reasons, I would be against the raising of the minimum wage not only in the city but the state as well. Other cities who have done this are seeing businesses leave or close as well as layoffs due to the difficulty of making ends meet for the small business owners. The wage issue is much deeper and more difficult than just throwing money at it."

Karen McClaffin — California Automobile Museum

"As a nonprofit museum open seven days per week, we have several employees who are classified exempt employees, working their own schedules to make sure all our open hours are covered and tasks are completed. An increase in the minimum wage, while potentially beneficial for lower income workers, would handicap us and force us to make all employees hourly employees, likely earning less than they are now since we could not afford to increase their salaries to twice the minimum wage level. This is an issue I have not seen addressed yet, but it's very impactful for us."

Alan Irvine — Scott's on the River

"We were able to absorb one increase, but with additional workers' comp fees, absence of payroll credit, increased seafood, beef and dairy prices, we are under attack!!"

Joe Genshlea — Revolution Wines

"An increase in the minimum wage above \$12 per hour would be devastating to our business. It would increase our labor costs to an extent that we would not be able to make payroll and would be forced to either cease operations or relocate."

Roy Alexander — Sacramento Children's Home

"My programs are government funded, the rate of reimbursement will not cover an employee making \$15 per hour and there is no governmental interest in raising our funding. Our reimbursement rate is far too low, and there is a big impact on exempt positions that must be paid double the minimum wage."

Scott Michael Vogelsang — AVIA MOBILITY

"As wages increase, so do the costs of doing business - and the costs associated with keeping people employed...As minimum wages are increased, the required minimum skill set of the employee is also increased... Minimum wage increases systematically bar lower skilled workers from the work force... Minimum wage increases are bad for the economy. Just ask Seattle and San Jose restaurants and bookstores who closed as their wage increases were phased in."

Chuck Benson — Elliott Benson Research

"Elliott Benson is a national market research company located on H Street, downtown Sacramento. We were recently impacted by the new sick pay law and now talk of a minimum wage hike is concerning. From a small business owners'

perspective, does anyone have any understanding of what it takes to start and run a business? Clearly not. When people talk about what they are planning for weekends and vacation, I say I'm going to work. That is our life. We respect our employees and pay them based upon merit and budget. All non-employers should make an effort to better understand what it takes to run a business and make payroll...Please, learn more about the challenges of ownership and show respect for the people creating jobs."

Rich Johnson — Lunch Box Express

"We are a catering business, and with the general economy at the time, (we) did not have the price elasticity to increase pricing. We increased our staff wages proportionally, and it has been absorbed in our margins for now...Increasing minimum wages for our industry severely hampers our ability to hire first time employees into the workforce. We can often hire experienced and trained staff for very little more."

Shane Crimmins — Gamma Glo Lighting

"When you're a small business every penny counts. We increased some of our prices on items that are usually incidental. But now that our overhead has

See Income, page 9

Income:

Continued from page 8

gone up with payroll, we had to start charging for things we would normally include. Delivery charges have increased as well...Hours will be cut back a little. Prices will go up again. They can't think that businesses will just absorb the increase. We will be putting off hiring new employees until we can adjust to the higher increase in overhead. As a business owner, I would rather locate my business outside the city limits in order to avoid this increase."

Doug Link — Esquire IMAX Theatre

"A wage increase of this magnitude would result directly in an increase in my ticket prices."

Asked the following questions to Raise the Wage Sacramento, Sacramentoans responded as follows:

Jane Ama Mantey, Ph.D.

1. It shouldn't be a possibility. It should be a given linked to some economic metric like the cost of living adjustment.
2. I support a \$15 minimum wage because our current minimum wage definitely isn't enough to afford Sacramento. I can barely afford it as a young professional with advanced degrees, who is also underpaid. For a one-bedroom apartment, the average rent in the city proper is \$1100. To afford rent and not exceed a third of your income,

residents need AT LEAST \$3300 a month or \$20 per hour, so \$15 per hour is beyond reasonable. As a consumer, I also support a \$15 minimum wage even if it may...MAY...raise prices by 1-2 percent. If that means thousands of people can keep a roof over their head, their lights on, and food on their table, I support that and don't mind paying more so businesses can sustain themselves.

3. Back in the day, after the Great Depression, small, local businesses paid living wages. The minimum wage, at its prime, was around half of the median income. (That would be about \$37,000 today for Sacramento or \$19.25 per hour.) However, with the dawn of "Walmartization" of industry, major corporations have simultaneously reduced worker income and killed "mom and pop" shops by paying their employees poverty wages that stifle competition, make neighborhoods poor, and increase the tax burden on working class families to support other poor families. These major industries claim the low wages keep product/service cost low, but really the low wages keep executive salaries and bonuses high and share prices growing. We have to stop this cycle. A \$15 minimum wage in Sacramento may bring short-

See Money, page 12



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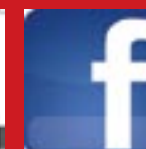
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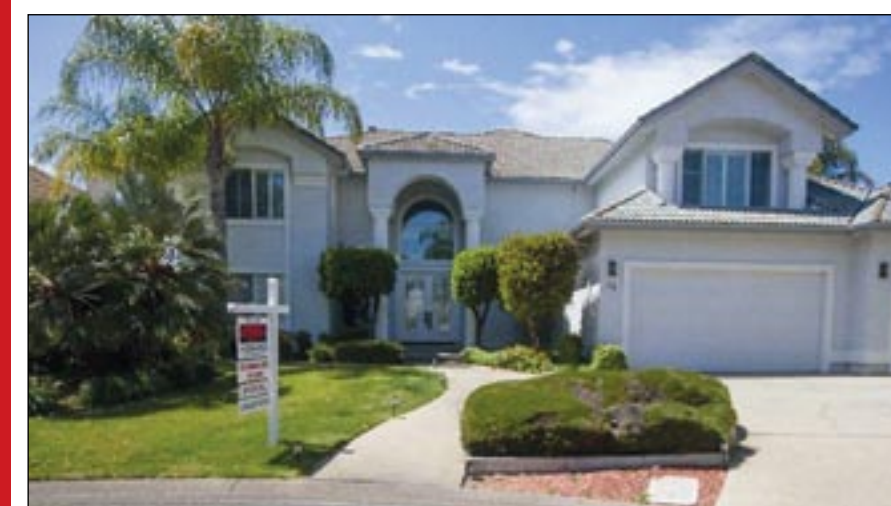
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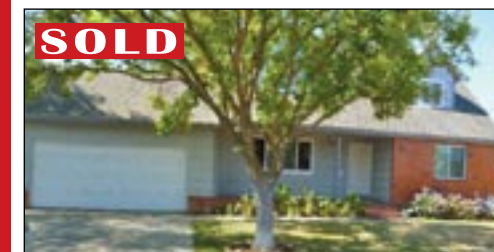
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Money:

Continued from page 6

term pains, but long-term I believe a higher minimum wage would remove the artificial advantage that major corporations/franchises have over the small businesses in the community. With time, "mom and pop" shops would be able to competitively provide a living wage again, more money would circulate in local economies, employees would be happier at their job and there will be less worker turnover, employees won't have to work two to three part-time jobs and therefore free up positions for the unemployed, employees, who are also consumers, would be to spend more and create more demand which creates more businesses, and employees would be able to save up money to buy a home or start their own business venture.

4. I think the raise should be incremental, however, it should be down quickly. It shouldn't take the city five years to get to \$15 per hour, because by then, \$15 per hour may not be adequate. It should be \$15 per hour in no more than two years. In 2016, the minimum wage will be \$10, so in Sacramento, we should put into place a process so that by 2017, the city minimum wage is \$12.50 per hour, and by 2018, it is \$15 per hour.
5. I have no idea how anyone making \$9 or \$10 an hour can survive in Sacramento without public assistance. And I'm tired of subsidizing businesses, who should be paying a true minimum wage that their workers...including tipped work-

ers...can survive on, instead of putting their responsibility on the public. Also, let's reduce this overreliance on tip culture. The minimum wage should be \$15 per hour for tipped workers and non-tipped workers alike. Tipping signifies you did a good job, not decide whether you make rent or not. It shouldn't be used to balance the budget for unscrupulous and cheap restaurant owners.

Phillip Kim

As a former restaurant server for eight years, I think a minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour would allow both local businesses and workers to prosper. To fully achieve its goal, it's important that tipped workers are included any new law. Tipped workers like servers and bartenders have to deal with the higher costs of living, including rent and health insurance, just like all other workers. By giving all workers more disposable income, there will be more customers for local businesses, especially restaurants. Nobody likes to patronize restaurants and bars more than the workers in the industry.

David Wong, an instructional aide at Luther Burbank High School

1. I believe that there are people who support the idea of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
2. I support the idea of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. I work as an instructional aide for the Sacramento Unified School District. I earn \$12 an hour, and I earn less than \$2,000 after tax. I

earn a poverty wage. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would improve my financial situation.

Other school district employees earning less than \$15 an hour are cafeteria workers, some of the clerks, and campus monitor. I do not have children; however, some of my coworkers do have children. They are supporting their families on poverty wage!

3. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would be beneficial to the city. When the workers' incomes are increased, they will have money to spend which would help generate sale tax for the city. When the workers' incomes are increased, they will have an opportunity to save some of their money for the future. They will be able to provide for their families and rely less on government welfare programs.
4. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is necessary. The change should be gradual so that the employers will have a chance to adjust to the change.
5. Workers earning less than \$15 an hour are earning poverty wage. They are doing the work; however, they are not sharing the wealth. If poverty wage continues to exist, the next generation will also be earning poverty wage!

Darrow Sprague

1. We need to give more people (sometimes referred to as consumers) the ability to participate in our economy.
2. I support a local ordinance that would provide a path to \$15/ hour, with no exemptions (carve-outs), with future

increases tied to the CPI, and Enforcement.

3. Nobody that is working full time should be living in poverty, particularly single parents that often have to juggle several part time jobs and are barely getting by.

4. It will have a ripple effect that will go beyond the city of Sacramento. It would be an immediate boon to any local business that caters to the working class, like many of these coffee houses, restaurants and breweries that I've been known to spend my money at. I am a consumer and by choosing where to spend my money, I am also the job creator.

5. I love Sacramento and I want to see our local economy thrive and I want more of my friends to be able to do better. It bothers me when I visit a local brewery and the owner brags to me about how well they are doing, but then I end up having to buy one of his employees and a couple of his performers a beer because they aren't really being compensated enough to afford the beer at this establishment, and then to later hear this same owner at the city task force meeting try to paint this picture of how forcing him to pay a little more per hour is going to drive him out of business. I'll take my business elsewhere first.

6. (Should it be gradual to \$15 an hour?) I would support a higher minimum wage, but I've seen survey results that show that 70 percent of Sacramento voters would support an immediate boost to \$13.50 an hour and 58 per-

cent support a pathway to \$15 an hour, so I'll side with the majority on this one. All we ask for is a path to \$15 per hour; no exemptions; chained to the CPI; An enforcement mechanism. An economy that denies a majority of the population the ability to participate is never going to be healthy. Smart business people with a long term vision will see the value and be ahead of the curve and be prepared to accept the increase in revenue. When people who are barely getting by, make more, they spend more and that's where jobs are created.

Colin Meinrath

1. I think it is inevitable
2. I do, because all people need to make a dignified living.
3. People said it would hurt the economy in other cities and those people were wrong
4. It should should increase by 75 cents each month until it's at \$20 per hour. It must also be pegged to increase with inflation.
5. America is under economic and racial apartheid. The rich greatly underestimate the amount of poverty, and the poor greatly underestimate the vast wealth of the ruling class.

Walt Rhoads

Seattle's recent adoption of a higher minimum wage shows that it's a realistic action. I support it for two reasons: one, the existing wage is too low to live on; and two, higher wages provide a stimulus for the whole

See Raise, page 13

Raise:

Continued from page 7

economy through a ripple effect from the bottom. At the low end of the wage scale, most of the money earned is spent rather than saved, and this immediate recirculation of the money provides the stimulus.

I think it would be beneficial to the city as a whole in the long run, although the additional overhead might be onerous for some businesses in the short run. For this reason I think it should be implemented gradually, to mitigate the short-term impact.

Raising the minimum wage to the level proposed is simply a restoration of societal and business norms that once were an accepted condition, before the ratio between the cost of living and the minimum wage became grossly disproportionate. It is not a radical proposal.

Janeth Serrano

1. I think it provides us a great opportunity to raise the standards of living for many Sacramentans. We know that the cost of living hasn't stayed as stagnant as wages have, and as a result many families are living paycheck to paycheck, hoping that they won't have an emergency that will send them over the edge financial or cause them to become homeless.
2. Yes, I support raising the wage. I support it because it will elevate the standard of living for not just the people who are making the higher wage but because it will also feed into the local economy.

3. Yes, I think the whole city could benefit. Because when workers are making a more livable wage they will be able to afford the extras that they can't right now and as a result they will be able to use their expendable income to go out for dinner, and other activities that will have them be part of the local economy.

4. I think a gradual increase in the wage is manageable - each year increasing it until it reaches \$15 an hour.

Eric Sunderland

1. I think it is high-time that we raise the minimum wage in Sacramento to meet and keep up with the rising cost of living in our community. The minimum wage is too slow to be raised, and too many years go by before the minimum wage is adjusted to keep up with rising cost of goods and services. Since the State of CA, and the Federal Government aren't moving fast enough to adjust the minimum wage, then we as a city should do so.

2. I support Sacramento finding its path to a \$15 minimum wage- staged in over a period of years, just as other cities up and down the State of California and across the country have done. I support it because raising the wage will boost the local economy by infusing dollars into local businesses. Right now, minimum wage working families don't have money to buy even basic necessities, and they have to depend on social services and public programs, (that

See Equality, page 19



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Happy 5th birthday to Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library celebrated its fifth birthday on Saturday, Aug. 29 with music, special guests, games and prizes, as well as catering by Farrell's! Additionally, there was music provided by kids musician, Brazilian Felipe Ferraz who entertained with Latin songs and a favorite by adults, Puff the Magic Dragon. Also, Robbie Waters, the library's namesake was honored with a resolution by the state Assembly thanking him for his work in the community and as a councilmember. Assemblymembers Richard Pan and Jim Cooper were there to share in that ceremony. It was a community celebration not to be missed! SPL's mascot Otterby Reading was around for commemorative photos and passed out special 5-year pins for guests. The free event was sponsored by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library!



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CALENDAR

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

Non-Profit Organization is Seeking Local Host Families for High School Exchange Students
ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with your

community high school, is looking for local families to host boys and girls between the ages of 15 to 18 from a variety of countries: Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Japan, to name a few.
ASSE students are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture while they practice their English. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families. Host families

welcome these students into their family, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience.
The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected based on academics and personality, and host families can choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.
To become an ASSE Host Family or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, please call 1-800-733-2773 or go to www.host.asse.com

com to begin your host family application. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today!

SEPTEMBER

Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock
Sept. 10: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket

and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Fire Station 20 Open House
Sept. 12: Fire Station 20, located at 2512 Rio Linda Blvd., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

See more Calendar, page 17

Calendar:

Continued from page 16

Railroad Museum calls out for volunteers -- Special drop-in volunteer open house

Sept. 12: Fascinated by railroading history? Interested in working on a train? California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP) are recruiting adults (18 or older) interested in volunteering to help communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush. For those interested, a special, drop-in Volunteer Open House is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Stanford Gallery at 111 I Street in Old Sacramento. Volunteer applications are being accepted through September 15, which will be followed by an interview process.

Each year, approximately 600 men and women volunteer for the California State Railroad Museum's programs -- including weekend excursion train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work. A background in history is not required to become a volunteer. In fact, most of the volunteers in the popular program began with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush. As individuals become more familiar with the Museum's var-

ied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to community organizations. New docents can choose to work in the Museum interacting with visitors from around the world, working in the railroad restoration shops on rare and unique railroad equipment, work on the Sacramento Southern Railroad, or other jobs in this dynamic and fun environment. Volunteering represents a serious commitment of at least 84 volunteer hours annually, but the hours are flex-

ible and the rewards can be tremendous. Docents receive perks such as a discount at the Museum Store, preferential and/or early access to selected special events, and the pride of working at North America's finest and most visited railroad museum. Volunteer applications can be downloaded at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25583 and completed forms can be emailed to allaboard.csrsm@parks.ca.gov or mailed/delivered to the Volunteer Coordinator, California State Railroad Museum, 111 I St., Sacra-

mento, CA 95814. For more information, please call 916-323-9280 or 916-445-0269.

Free movie showing! Take Back Your Power: A critical investigation of the smart grid & smart meters
Sept. 13: 1 p.m. Josh del Sol's award winning documentary investigates so-called "smart" utility meters, uncovering shocking evidence of in-home privacy invasions, increased utility bills, health & environmental harm, fires and unprecedented hacking vulnerability...

and lights the path toward solutions. Eric Windheim, EMRS Certified Electromagnetic Radiation Specialist and founder of Sacramento Smart Meter Awareness will host Q & A after the film. The event will be held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St.; <http://www.eventbrite.com>, call 395-7336
Visit: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-back-your-power-a-critical-investigation-of-the-smart-grid-smart-meters-tickets-17875455970?aff=ehomesaved>

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Revere Court Memory Care of Sacramento announces grand re-opening and remodel

Originally opened as "Primrose" in the year 2000, Revere Court (Chancellor Health care LLC), is the recognized leader in providing innovated and specialized Alzheimer's/memory care throughout the Sacramento market. Recently, Revere Court has undergone a renovation, and has announced a "Grand Re-Opening" celebration on Thursday, Sept. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. at their 7707 Rush River Drive location.

Since their June 2014 purchase and transition, Revere Court has embraced the latest Alzheimer's disease research and incorporated "Person Centered Memory Care", as well as offered signature interactive Alzheimer's and dementia related programs, including the acclaimed, "Music & Memory", "Art Reflections", and the "Fresh and Healthy Fair".

Continuing in the tradition of bringing specialized memory care in a neighborhood (Pocket region of Sacramento) setting, Revere Court offers additional public programs for those still caring for a loved one at home, including their Support Groups, Free Educational Seminars, and the recently added on site "Genesis Rehabilitation Center".

Revere Court is also deeply involved in community philanthropy and educational opportunities to the public, having affinity alliance relationships with the UC Davis Mind Research Institute and the Alzheimer's Association.

Open to the public for their "Grand Re-Opening", the recently completed remodeling of Revere Court's four cottages on their 3.5 acre property, will be highlight-

ed. The remodeling brings an updated "look and feel" in a supportive and nurturing setting for their memory care residents.

Mrs. Catherine Hennan, who was recently promoted to the Executive Director position after working as the Business Office Manager for over a decade with both Primrose and Revere Court, is excited about the expanded services and new changes at Revere Court.

"With all of our programs, Revere Court recognizes the individual, and has expanded our minds and philosophies into new and progressive approaches that create an evolved model of care".

Revere Court's "Grand Re-Opening" celebration will spotlight their signature interactive memory programs and welcomes the public to meet their new ownership group, directors and managers of their programs, as well as the opportunity to learn more about their Day Club, Respite Care, and Residential Care services.

"We are pleased to proudly announce our Grand Re-Opening to the public and local neighborhood of the Pocket area," added Hennan. "As the premier senior living organization in Sacramento, we are excited to offer quality and affordable residential senior services, and to create an environment and a culture that strives to respect and embrace each individual we serve through enriching personal connections and daily experiences."

For more information, contact Casey Simon, community relations director, at 392-3510.

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Equality:

Continued from page 13

we all pay for with our taxes,) to get through the week. If we raise the minimum wage, low-wage earners will have what they need to buy basic necessities, and may even be able to buy an extra item or two once in awhile.

4. I honestly believe a minimum wage increase is needed, and well over-due. We have some catching up to do! BUT, we must do it at a pace that will allow local businesses to be able to absorb and to adjust their business models.

5. I believe we should raise the minimum wage to \$13.50 in 2017. This would give businesses time to absorb the

otherwise not be spent here by the huge corporations that mostly own the low-wage paying businesses, but a raise would also help get working families off of public assistance programs.

6. I believe we should raise the minimum wage to \$13.50 in 2017. This would give businesses time to absorb the

2016 raise to \$10.00 per hour, and I also feel that once it is set at \$13.50 per hour, that the minimum wage should be set to automatically rise with the cost of goods and services, by tying our minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) like a lot of the other CA cities have done. That way we will not have to revisit the issue in the future, and we won't fall so far behind that it takes large increases to catch up with the cost of living.

6. I believe Sacramento working families deserve to be paid a livable wage!

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VALLEY HI COUNTRY CLUB

Special setting with view of the 16th hole. 4 bedrooms 3½ with dream kitchen - recently upgraded with granite counters and stainless appliances. Huge master suite includes dual sinks, separate tub/shower, walk-in closet. Lush courtyard entry. Lap pool, spa, built-in Viking grill. New solar electrical system. \$667,000

JAY FEAGLES 204-7756



PENDING

BRIDGEVIEW AT RIVERLAKE

Spacious home features 3 large bedrooms, 3 full baths, a downstairs office and a large upstairs media room. Downstairs office could be 4th bedroom. Ready for summer pool, outdoor fireplace and pleasant outdoor patio space. Also includes an enormous 3-car garage suitable for an RV or boat. \$639,000

JUSTIN DAVIS 798-3126



LITTLE POCKET HOME

Bring your imagination, loads of potential! Fantastic location, huge lot and 3-car garage that includes a drive through! Trees galore including Fuji Apple, Persimmon, Grapefruit, Pomegranate and so much more! 3 bedroom home was altered to accommodate wheelchair and handicapped. \$350,000

PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715

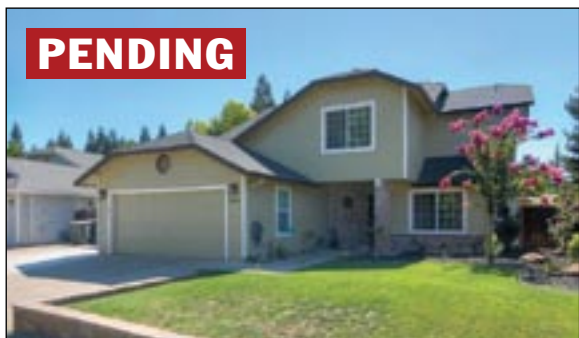


PENDING

CHARMING WHITE PICKET FENCES

Charming Pocket home nestled on a tree-lined street. Located on an oversized pie shaped lot, this home has been tenderly maintained and upgraded. 3 bedroom 2½ bath with its spacious floor plan, cherry wood floors, formal dining room, 2 balconies, and an upgraded kitchen! \$417,900

PAMELA ANDERSON 502-2729



PENDING

SPACIOUS ELK GROVE

Spacious 4 bedroom plus a den, 2½ bath home. Separate living and family rooms. Granite kitchen with breakfast bar, updated appliances. 10-year new roof, central HVAC, Low E windows. Master suite has walk-in closet, updated bath with jetted tub. Splash in the sparkling pool. \$389,000

CONNIE LANDSBERG 761-0411



PENDING

RIVER OAKS

Great family home; 4 bedroom 3 bath with one bedroom bath downstairs. 2 doors down from the wonderful Marriott Park - easy access to downtown - 2 eating areas and both a living room & a family room! Newer roof, beautiful wood floors and new interior paint. \$409,500

**MONA GERGEN 247-9555
SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395**



PENDING

HAMPTON STATION

Woodside Home neighborhood, nice 3 bedroom 2½ bath home, built in 2013. Dual pane windows, dual controlled HVAC for upstairs and downstairs. Washer and dryer, and refrigerator included with the home. Within easy walking distance of Light Rail Station and Hampton Park. \$225,000

SUE LEE 833-5122

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