



River Park Review

Vol. 9, No. 2

www.riverparksacramento.net

Amber Kemp and Alex Read elected to RPNA board Board chooses Jeff Harris as 2009 RPNA president

A revitalized River Park Neighborhood Association board of directors is in place for 2009. The board assembled for the first time on January 29 after a successful mail-in election in which Amber Kemp and Alex Read were elected to two-year terms. Matt Mitchell was re-elected. Barbara Debert and Mike Montgomery were elected for the first time after serving two years as appointed board members. Ballots were mailed to 518 RPNA members in December; 251 were returned. Six candidates were on the ballot. Montgomery received 209 votes, Debert 202, Mitchell 200, Read 191 and Kemp 180. Candidate Lauren Morgan received 138 votes.



2009 RPNA Board of Directors

Top row (L to R): Alex Read, Jeff Harris, Steve Harriman, Matt Mitchell, Mike Montgomery. Bottom row: Kate Mooney, Barbara Debert, Amber Kemp, Frank Cirill, Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Kristin Wright

At its January 29 meeting, the board elected Jeff Harris president and Steve Harriman vice president. Debert was reelected treasurer. Kemp was elected secretary. Kate Mooney will lead the Membership-Elections Committee.

The board intends to reach out this year to attract many new members to the association. The board will also continue its efforts to reduce crime related to Paradise Beach and will move forward to rewrite the RPNA by-laws as part of its effort to convert the association into a 501c3 non-profit organization. And RPNA will continue to sponsor the famous 4th of July Festival and Fall picnic.



Amber Kemp



Alex Read

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS February 2009... and beyond

Sunday February 8
Blood drive
10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Bloodmobile
5458 Carlson Drive
BBQ after you donate

Thursday February 12
Garden Club Pot Luck
6:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian Church
Ferguson Hall
Topic: Organic bug control
www.riverparkgardenclub.com

Thursday February 19
RPNA Meetings
Block captains 6:30 p.m.
RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian Church
Geneva Room

A Commentary by Cheryl Stark

I have lived in River Park for 21 years. I love the small town neighborhood in the heart of Sacramento. The people who choose to live here have many diverse backgrounds, but mostly have the “respectful, good neighbor attitude”. This “caring” for each other is what makes River Park a community.

Recently, there was a situation that made me question my opinion of the character of some of the residents of River Park. I was jogging near Caleb Greenwood School, and I noticed a man on the phone who appeared to own two dogs. As I kept running the dogs spotted me and ran towards the fence at full speed. Mouths frothing they jumped repeatedly on the fence in “attack mode”. I was dumfounded that the man did NOTHING, except to continue to talk on the phone. I was astounded. I asked the man to “please control his dogs.” He did call them, but to no avail. I again asked him to contain his dogs and he told me to just keep running, and he stated “they could not get to me since I was on the other side of the fence.”

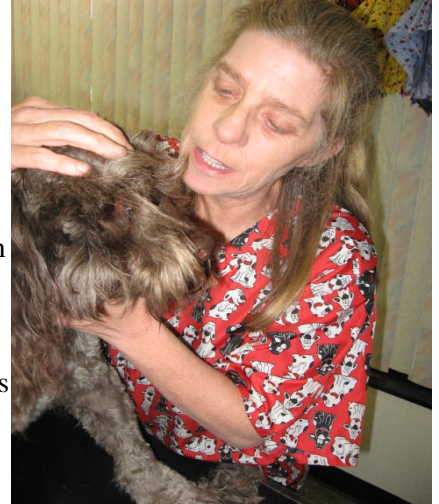
I jogged a few feet and was chased by the two growling, barking dogs. I stopped again and requested that perhaps he leash his dogs. He then stated that they would not hurt me. This concept was hard to believe. My heart was pounding and I was hoping they would not make it over or under the fence. Again, these aggressive out of control animals were within inches of my body.

Our conversation became more heated and attracted many residents of River Park. The outcome? The man with the dogs apologized. I can only hope that in the future, he and others like him, will respect the law and be more considerate of the people who are his neighbors. There is a reason there are postings of “No Dogs Allowed”. The school and park are for children. We have walking trails, and many dog parks in Sacramento where dogs can have more freedom.

My faith in River Park residents is no longer being questioned. As I look at the events regarding this incident, I see that the majority of people will support people who are “doing the right thing”. I will continue to hope that we who live here will respect the rights of others, and join in keeping our neighborhood one in which all can enjoy the privileges of our community. This is what makes River Park a true neighborhood.

In Debra’s Dog House

Debra Garner says she doesn’t like to deal with people. That doesn’t mean her business—*Debra’s Dog House* in the River Park shopping mall—is not a welcoming place. It is. But if you are a dog or cat or Guinea pig, your needs come first. Which is why she has customers coming from all over the Sacramento metro region. She’ll board your pet when you go away on business, wash it, groom it, clip its toe-nails and kill its fleas. Debra’s *Dog House* has been in River Park for 8 years, handling over 100 pets a week. But she may be moving a few doors down soon as the strip mall reshuffles itself. The rumor is that another bakery is coming.



Debra’s Dog House is not just Debra. Valerie Yung and Jackie Sugimoto share the work as independent contractors. Debra says there is no state certification required - yet - for pet groomers, But she notes she maintains an A+ five star rating with the Better Business Bureau.

There was some commotion in mid-January when Debra’s shop was broken into, as were several other businesses in the mall. Debra lost almost \$1000 in cash and checks and put a new security system on the front door the next day.

Debra’s Dog House does not engage in the buying and selling of animals, but if you or your master have between 35 and 65 dollars, Debra will bathe and groom you. It’s really Debra’s pet spa, open 8 a.m to whenever, every day except Saturday. Call to make an appointment- **457-7387**

www.freewebs.com/debrasdoghouse **ARF!**

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Mamma Susanna's...What's Up?

by Carol Bogovich

Almost anyone who has tried Mamma Susanna's delectable pastas, pizzas, salads, appetizers, or that nearly sinful tiramasu, has become a regular patron of this authentic Italian neighborhood restaurant in River Park. The sad news of the restaurant being sold certainly threw a lot of people for a loop. We, like a lot of people, depend on Mamma's to fill our need for a great meal when we are not in the mood to cook, and love to meet friends there for food, wine and good conversation.



"Mamma" Sue Fitch

So, what's up? The sale of the restaurant recently fell out of escrow from the buyers' end of the deal. Life changes for us all, no less so for Nino Pagano and Kori Fitch who have relocated to Arizona pursuing another restaurant venture and a teaching career, respectively. The great news is that Sue Fitch, Kori's mother, and namesake of the restaurant, still calls River Park home and is now operating the restaurant with the same skillful staff. Mamma Susanna's is now in full swing with essentially the same, fabulous Italian menu developed by Nino, now expertly prepared and presented by Maria Rodriguez and Octavio Ortiz who were mentored by Nino for the last several years. Although the restaurant is still for sale, Sue's leadership and the dedicated staff at Mamma Susanna's ensure a stable future for this neighborhood treasure.

The staff at Mamma Susanna's is ready to satisfy your craving for genuine Italian faire right down the street. The door is still open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner...

Tuesday-Saturday 4:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Sunday 4:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Make your reservation soon or call for take-out today!
452-7465

Sac State Calendar of Events

<http://calendar.csus.edu/CampusCat.asp>

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Bente Riley on Moddison was the first person to note one of what were unfortunately several typographical and calendrical errors in the most recent Review. Quite a few called, but Bente was the first.



Don't be fooled. A close read of the Review is still only worth five dollars. Change is coming.
(*Calendrical error* means an incorrect date)


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 Sacramento Police non-emergency **264-5471**
 Power's out? Call SMUD **888-456-7683**
 Fire! Call **9-1-1** or **264-5031**
 Mayor Kevin Johnson **808-5300**
 City Councilman Steve Cohn scohn@cityofsacramento.org
 or call **808-7003**
 County Supervisor Susan Peters **874-5471**
 City Animal Control **808-7387**
 What's the weather? www.wrh.noaa.gov/Sacramento
 City of Sacramento Neighborhood Services Department:
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org:80/ns/>



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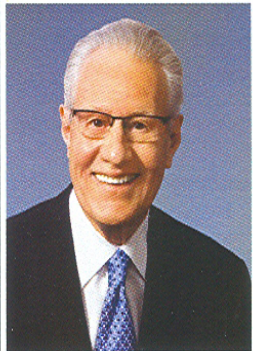
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December 2008 River Park crime reports:

<http://gis.cityofsacramento.org/website/sacpd/>

Dec 3	6:30 p.m.	Larceny	Camellia near Messina
Dec 7	6:30 p.m.	Larceny Theft	Fremont Church
Dec 13	3:10 p.m.	Assault - Felony	Spilman near Ada
Dec 20	5:50 a.m.	Auto Theft	Minerva near Betty
Dec 20	12:59 a.m.	Assault - Felony	Moddison near Ruth

January crime wave hits River Park

The year began badly when less than ten days into January burglars struck several businesses in the shopping mall on Carlson. The overnight break-ins led to quick new security systems for several tenants.

Then on January 13, two men with extensive criminal records were arrested after a vigilant resident called the cops about a suspicious vehicle. One guy immediately ratted on the other who had already fled the scene on foot. The police helicopter and a bite from a police dog brought him to heel. This was in the 5700 block of Carlson.


Racist graffiti showed up after New Year's on the Jungle Gym in the Glen Hall kiddie playground. By the end of the month the racist and KKK scribbling had been scrubbed away.

On January 24, the 5700 block of State Avenue was the scene of a huge police action. According to the Sacramento Bee, a part-time live-in caretaker, Alex Acuna, got drunk

and disorderly and waved a gun, which turned out to be a toy. It became a standoff. Neighbors were told to stay indoors, and the SWAT Team, the helicopter and the K9 Unit all were involved - 40 officers in all. Acuna was finally arrested. All afternoon, River Park's two computer listserves served their function well by letting residents online follow the action.

On January 28, a school day, the windows of two vehicles sitting in the Caleb Greenwood School parking lot were broken in.

Each of these otherwise isolated events proves once again that River Park is not an island of safety.




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In brief:

- The River Park Mothers Club is hosting its annual Kick-Off party Tuesday, February 11th at 7 p.m. The member appreciation party will have a Valentine's Day theme this year. This is a great opportunity to come and see what the club is all about. Please check the club's website for more information: <http://www.bigtent.com/groups/rpmc> Registration is now open for new and current members. Dues are \$30 for the year.
- River Park Adult Slo-Pitch Softball Team, Recreational Co-ed Spring/Summer Twilight League Signups now. Contact George Shahan **739-8874**
- The Sacramento City Council will conduct a Review and Comment on the McKinley Village Project on Tuesday March 10 at 6:00 p.m. This item has been postponed once already, so call City Councilman Steve Cohn's office at **808-7003** to confirm.

- The RPNA board on Jan 29 voted to allocate \$400 to support the upcoming Arts in River Park festival. The board also voted unanimously to spend \$1000 to help pay for an anti-bullying program ("Touch of Understanding") this spring at Caleb Greenwood School.
- The RPNA board on Jan 29 also reaffirmed its insistence that Mayor Johnson do what he said he would do when he addressed the board in October: arrange for city Police Chief Braziel and County Sheriff McGinness to meet jointly with the RPNA board to discuss Paradise Beach jurisdiction and problems.
- Ticket sales begin February 17 for the Caleb Greenwood 2009 Spring Raffle. The winner gets a \$1,000 cash grand prize and there are two \$150 second prizes. Student ticket sellers are vying to win a Wii game system and pizza parties for their classes. Tickets are \$5 (\$100 for a book of 25). Win or lose, every ticket bears a coupon from Rocket Joe coffee and Opa Opa. All proceeds benefit the school. Tickets are available at the Caleb office as well as through students and parents. The drawing is April 24.

River Park Resident

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2009 RPNA Contacts/Membership information

RPNA membership is on a calendar year. If you would like to check or renew your membership, call Kate Mooney at **739-0201** or e-mail membership@riverparksacramento.net. If you would like to become a member, send \$10 (per household) to **RPNA, PO Box 19866, Sacramento, CA 95819**. Make check payable to RPNA.

NAME	ASSOCIATION	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Jeff Harris	RPNA President	455-0996	president@riverparksacramento.net
Billy & Eve Martinez	Block Captain Coordinators	457-7725	rvrpk3@surewest.net
Kate Mooney	RPNA Membership	739-0201	membership@riverparksacramento.net
Mike Montgomery	Newsletter Editor	457-2933	editor@riverparksacramento.net

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