



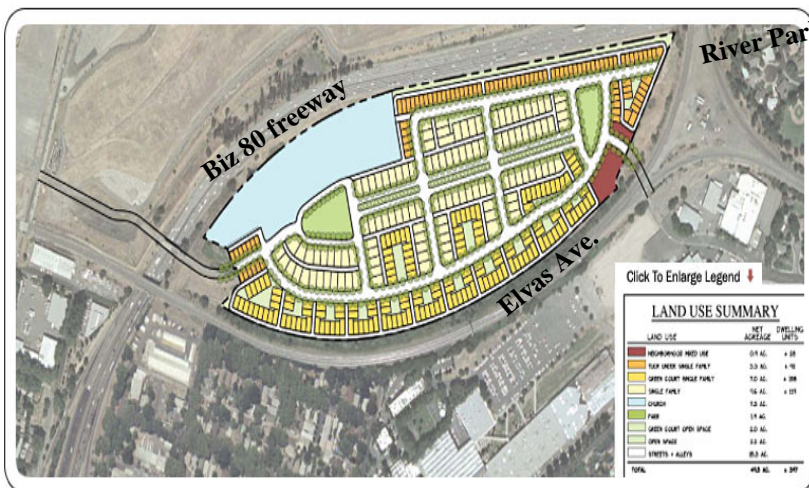
River Park Review

Vol. 9, No. 1

www.riverparksacramento.net

RPNA board hears McKinley Village pros and cons

McKinley Village is a name attached by project proponents to the latest in a long series of ideas for development at the former “Centrage” site located along the Business 80 Freeway just west of the panhandle area of River Park. This is the site where, until recently, you could see a small apricot orchard and the occasional sheep grazing along the freeway. It is one of the largest infill locations in Sacramento but one long vexed with both physical and political constraints on development. Angelo Tsakopolous owns the land. Phil Angelides would be the developer.



At its November meeting, the RPNA Board heard from two neighborhood representatives in East Sacramento, Nancy Cornelius and Ron Maertz, both of the McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association (MENA). The board also heard from Vicki Grenz and Bret Hogge, both representing the development partnership headed by former gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides. Since that meeting, RPNA Board members Frank Cirill and Matt Mitchell have followed the issue in meetings with Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn.

Despite the down economy, McKinley Village currently appears more likely to move forward than other recent development proposals for the site. The approximately 400-home project, which is on a low-rise “new urbanist” model, appears to have few immediate impacts on River Park, with the possible exception of traffic impacts at Elvas Avenue and H Street. Neighbors in East Sacramento and Midtown, by contrast, have significant concerns about traffic impacts in their neighborhoods.

Discussions have focused largely on these traffic impacts, as well as on ways to make the site plan denser and more walkable, with more local retail stores and commercial amenities. Stay tuned for more information as the spring progresses.

McKinley Village now has its own website at www.mckinleyvillage.net

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS January 2009... and beyond

Thursday January 29

Note this date: January 29 not Jan. 15

RPNA meetings

- Block captains 6:30 p.m.
- RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
- Fremont Presbyterian Church Geneva Room

Sunday February 8

Blood drive 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bloodmobile
5458 Carlson Drive

Drinks and snacks
when 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

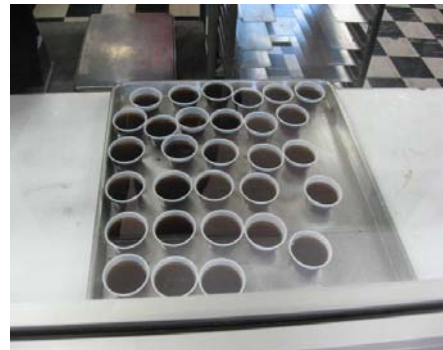
Under new management (almost)



The name and the menu will remain the same. But River Park's popular *Mamma Susanna's* Italian restaurant is in the process of coming under new management. As of this writing, the state Alcoholic Beverage Commission is processing the beer and wine license. Susanna Fitch (Mamma) and the Fitch family have sold the place to Sacramento area chefs Randee and Javier Cruz. Chief chef Nino Pagano is leaving and the Fitch family is heading back to Tucson, Arizona - Mamma says they are "desert people" - to open a restaurant there. *Mamma Susanna's* opened in River Park in June 2004 and according to Mamma it's been a success all along. She says the economic recession is not a factor in the change. The décor and knick knacks will stay when the Fitches leave. But will the quality of the food change? There's only one way to find out. *Arrivederci and Buon giorno!*

Pancake Combo - eat and run

Caleb Greenwood School pulled a neat trick Saturday December 13, combining its traditional Fall Pancake Breakfast with a healthy pre-breakfast fun run for both kids and adults. Almost 200 participants ran up to 5 kilometers starting at 8 a.m. on a bright but cold morning. After that, the line was out the door for pancakes, sausage, juice, hot chocolate and coffee. City Councilman Steve Cohn was there as was Santa Claus (not the same person). The Caleb cafeteria was full and the holiday music was a bit too loud at times, but it was a typically happy RP event.



Want syrup with those pancakes?

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School board shakeup

Four new members of the Sacramento City Unified School District's board of trustees were elected on November 4. As the result of 2006's Measure J, this was the first time that voters were given the opportunity to elect their school board representatives by area. Prior to this election board trustees were elected at-large and could live anywhere in the district. Five Board members resided in Area 6 (Greenhaven) and the board's new president, Roy Grimes, who was not up for reelection this year, will continue representing Area 6. Four seats were thus available for the previously unrepresented Areas 3, 4, 5 and 7. This change in board policy seems to have renewed voter interest in who is elected to serve and represent the public on the school board. Donald Terry was elected from Area 3, Gustavo Arroyo from Area 4, Diana Rodriguez from Area 5, and Patrick Kennedy will serve area 7. Ellyne Bell will continue to serve Area 1 and Jerry Houseman will continue to represent Area 2 which includes River Park. Julian Lopez serves as the appointed, non-voting, at-large student trustee. The new board is faced with several major issues including the selection of a new superintendent and school closures that will come as a result of budget deficits.

Sac State Calendar of Events

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

Sports, art, music, theatre, new bookstore, and a really great library available for your use

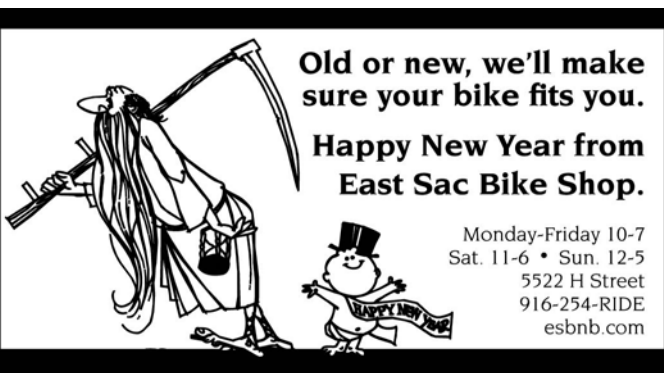
Caleb Greenwood K - 8 School REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2009

Registration will begin
Monday January 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Parents will need the following three items in order for their child to register:

- 1) Birth Certificate
- 2) Immunization verification
- 3) Proof of address

Call 277-6266 for more information



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Susan Woodward on Spilman Avenue noticed the error in the most recent issue of the Review. The signs at Glen Hall Park do indeed read "Closed Sunset to Sunrise" and not the other way around.



It pays to be a careful reader of the River Park Review.

RPNA Board Election

The approximately 520 members of the River Park Neighborhood Association will receive paper ballots in the mail in early January. Each dues paying RPNA member will be asked to vote for five of seven candidates. The current board has two vacancies. One incumbent member is seeking reelection. Two incumbents, who were appointed to fill vacancies two years ago, are seeking their first election. The candidates' names and a short statement of their qualifications will appear on the ballot. A postage paid envelope will be included for return of marked ballots. Winning candidates will be announced and will take their seats at 7:30 p.m. at the January 29th RPNA board meeting at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Geneva Room.

RPNA is also considering methods to reach out to the households in River Park that are still not members of the association. A "Dear Neighbor" mailing to all 1700 households is possible in 2009.

Arts in River Park 2009

Vendors are now sought for the Arts in River Park Festival, which will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Last year 20 vendors were turned away. Applications will be accepted until full. This is our 6th arts festival in East Sacramento. There is no admission charge. Artist vendors must have handmade items for sale. Performing artists will dance and sing throughout the day. There will be hands-on activities for the kids, healing artists will have information booths and demonstrations, and area organizations will have information tables. Visit us at www.artsinriverpark.org or call us at 916-457-3337.

Sponsors thus far include Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn, Hon. Lillian Shek, New Order Ink, Balanced Life, Parents' Monthly, Inside Publications, Healing Artists of Greater Sacramento, and The Craft Connection.

Mothers Club elects new officers

Congratulations to the 2009 RPMC Officers!

President -- Tracy Mullen
 Vice-President -- Jill Bornemann
 Treasurer -- Ginger Stimac
 Secretary/Newsletter -- Michele Payne
 Membership Chair -- Kristin Vandersluis
 Children's Events -- Ginger Durham
 Family Events -- Sarah Clark
 Mom's Events -- Pam Livesy
 Historian -- Michelle Espy

There will be an Installation Dinner on Thursday, January 15th from 7 – 9 p.m. for Mothers Club members. To RSVP for this event or for additional information on other RP Mother's Club events please go to:

www.bigtent.com/groups/rpmc

Places to go (on the web) and people to call

Call the city anytime about anything **3-1-1**

Suggestions to the city jmartindale@cityofsacramento.org

Sacramento Police emergency **9-1-1** or **264-5151**

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

Oct – Nov 2008 River Park crime reports:

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

Oct. 3	10:00 p.m.	Vandalism	Caleb Greenwood School
Oct. 3	10:05 p.m.	Larceny theft	Caleb Greenwood School
Oct. 8	10:00 p.m.	Larceny theft	Caleb Greenwood School
Oct. 8	2:20 a.m.	Larceny theft	Moddison near Carrington
Oct. 24	2:08 a.m.	Auto theft	H St. between Camellia and Carlson
Oct. 29	11:00 a.m.	Burglary vehicle	Glen Hall Parking lot
Oct. 31	9:57 p.m.	Misdemeanor assault	Moddison near Minerva
Nov. 8	11:08 p.m.	DUI	H Street at bridge
Nov. 9	11:00 a.m.	Burglary residence	Moddison near Sandburg
Nov. 10	8:00 a.m.	Larceny Theft	Lovella near Carlson
Nov. 17	5:00 p.m.	Burglary vehicle	Caleb Greenwood School
Nov. 21	10:00 a.m.	Larceny Theft	Sandburg near State (north)
Nov. 26	9:00 p.m.	Burglary Vehicle	Minerva near Spilman
Nov. 27	10:00 a.m.	Larceny theft	Scottish Rite lot



Crime marches on in River Park. Sacramento police still have not made an arrest in the August 19 sexual assault in Glen Hall Park. A crackdown of sorts on illegal parking and speeding began in early December with tickets being issued along Carlson Drive adjacent to Caleb Greenwood School. Later in December there was a kaffuffle over parking in cul de sacs. City police say no head-in parking. It could block fire trucks and ambulances (and Hummers?) from making rapid turn arounds. Good news came on Dec. 4 when the Sacramento Bee ran a story focusing on Neighborhood Watch programs with pleasant words about River Park's summer effort.

Then there were the speed bumps on Moddison. After a controversial survey of residents along a portion of Moddison and a vote by the River Park Neighborhood Association to keep hands off, the Sacramento city council in early October approved the installation of four speed lumps between Carlson and Sandburg. In mid-November city crews did install the speed lumps (see pictures). Immediately there was protest. Some drivers complained by honking their horns as they negotiated the lumps. A few illegal signs appeared along the right of way.

Concerning Glen Hall Park and Paradise Beach, cooler weather meant fewer visitors and an end to most, but not all, alcohol-fueled hooliganism. The draft of the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) report, described at the November RPNA board meeting, has not been adopted or implemented. City Councilman Steve Cohn said at the November 20th RPNA meeting that a community meeting should be held to discuss the CPTED proposals (which include new fences, gates, and lights in Glen Hall Park) before they go to the city council. Sacramento's new mayor Kevin Johnson told RPNA in October that security improvements could be made quickly. We shall see.

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In brief:

- Spring is **flood** time. Homeowners need to remember that regular homeowners insurance does not normally cover flood damage. Separate flood insurance will. Flooding is the leading cause of property damage in the U.S. Are you covered?
- The River Park Neighborhood Association has its own **website** at www.riverparksacramento.net. But its usefulness is limited by the fact that RPNA does not currently have a webmaster who can add and adjust content on the website. The RPNA board has approved in principle the hiring of a webmaster unless a talented community volunteer quickly steps forward.
- Sacramento Police report that **cat burglars** are on the prowl in east Sacramento. Dark, cold, wet nights usually keep honest folks indoors, but offer perfect opportunities for stealthy thieves to ply their trade. Keep it locked and lit.

- **River Park Youth Baseball** is accepting applications now for the spring 2009 season. See www.riverparkbaseball.org for details. The league is open to boys and girls ages 5 thru 12. After tryouts, teams will be chosen in early February with Opening Day on Saturday March 7, 2009. Youth Baseball is major league in River Park.
- The River Park **Rascals**, coached by Mark Murphy and Ed Gallagher, won the girls under 12 Sacramento Youth Soccer League Division A championship on December 6. Playing four games at foggy and cold Glen Hall Park, the Rascals won three and tied one, giving up no goals to any of their opponents.



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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 Bill Piper at **455-8539** 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
Matt Mitchell	RPNA President	736-2029	president@riverparksacramento.net
Billy & Eve Martinez	Block Captain Coordinators	457-7725	rivrpk3@surewest.net
Bill Piper	RPNA Membership	455-8539	membership@riverparksacramento.net
Mike Montgomery	Newsletter Editor	457-2933	editor@riverparksacramento.net

To submit an article to the River Park Review, please email information to editor@riverparksacramento.net. The River Park Review is published by the RPNA, which is responsible for its content. It reserves the right to edit and/or reject submissions. Editor will pay five dollars to the first person who finds the typo. **ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE: Business Card: \$50; Business Card-Plus: \$75; Insert: \$150** Thanks always to Silvio Suine and his army of block captains who deliver the River Park Review to your doorstep. Great job!