

4th of July Festival 10 a.m. Glen Hall Park!

River Park Review



Vol. 9, No. 5

www.riverparksacramento.net

Crackdown begins at Paradise Beach/Glen Hall Park

Sacramento law enforcement officers in early May launched what appears to be a sustained effort to reduce illegal behavior in Glen Hall Park and at Paradise Beach. At the same time, vandals attacked the main Glen Hall Park sign, ripping its facade completely off (see photo).

The crackdown involved primarily Sacramento city police officers along with city and county park rangers. The Sacramento county sheriff's helicopter began making almost nightly bullhorn announcements ordering partiers to leave the beach after closing time.

Although the crackdown is a welcome sign of good faith by the city, there are indications that the city's commitment to spend \$400,000 on safety improvements may fall victim to budget cuts. The sharp decline in construction is reducing city builder impact fees that are the source of the \$400,000. Glen Hall Park itself, along with all other city parks, now faces the prospect of sharp summertime maintenance cutbacks that could reduce garbage pickups in the park to once a week and grass cutting to once every three weeks.

The proposed steel fence along the levee in the park is also drawing criticism (see page 3). River Park residents should remain vigilant against crime and should not hesitate to contact police or politicians to express their concerns.

County Park Rangers **875-6672** Mayor Kevin Johnson **808-5300**
Police non-emergency **264-5471** Councilman Steve Cohn **808-7003**
cohn@cityofsacramento.org



An example of Sacramento law enforcement in action: May 9, 2009

Officers conducted a sweep/operation at Glen Hall Park and Paradise Beach along with Park Safety Units and Park Rangers (County). Officers located a backpack in a garbage can. Inside the backpack was a large amount of ecstasy, magic mushrooms, marijuana, prescription narcotics, scales and cash. Also in the backpack was the wallet and ID of a subject sitting nearby that was detained for drinking a beer. Suspect's name is being withheld pending follow up investigation. Suspect arrested: male 20s.

Additional stats - 1 subject arrested for being intoxicated, 4 alcohol citations, 1 felony warrant, 1 marijuana citation, 1 DUI, 14 traffic citations, provided 4 warnings, and towed 2 vehicles.

Join Night Patrol Now!

River Park has the longest continually active Night Patrol in Sacramento. We materially aid the police in keeping our crime rate low, and are currently in need of volunteers. We ask for a participation of only six hours in a year (or less if that is all you can manage). It will introduce you to all of the streets in River Park, get you familiar with police procedure, and introduce you to more neighbors. Actually, its fun! Our first volunteers of the year were Dan and Eli, owners of the Fire Café. Information and signups are at riverparksacramento.net (click night patrol) or email president@riverparksacramento.net

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS

June 2009... and beyond

Saturday June 13
Councilman Steve Cohn
Sidewalk Office Hours
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Prior to Pops in the Park
Glen Hall Park
Ask Steve about anything

Saturday June 13
Pops in the Park
Glen Hall Park
6 p.m.
Aaron King & the Imperials
Dancing and fun
Food and beverages for sale

Thursday June 18
RPNA Meetings
Block captains 6:30 p.m.
RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian Church
Geneva Room

Saturday July 4
FESTIVAL 10 a.m.
Glen Hall Park
Parade begins at Caleb Greenwood School 10:00 a.m.
Kids Fun Run at 7:45 a.m.
Bigger folks run at 8:00 a.m.

The American Pastime in River Park

By Matt Mitchell

Baseball may be the great American pastime, but growing up in 1970s Seattle, that most “post-American” of American cities as French writer Bernard Henri Levy once described it, I passed precious few childhood moments with mitt and bat.

In fact, it turns out that my Dad also played very little baseball growing up in 1940s Indiana. What about my own boys in 2000s Sacramento? Remarkably, and to my delight, I find my southpaw older son truly enjoying himself out on the diamond. This is very much due to the fates that landed my family in River Park, and the long presence here of River Park Youth Baseball. “Nobody is clear on the exact date,” notes current board president Tom Griffin, “but the league has existed since the mid to late 1960s.”

This year, a record 305 children hit and catch in River Park. The kids play for 25 teams, organized into four age divisions (t-ball, rookies, minors, and majors). Most games take place at Ciavarella Field, constructed by local businessman Herb Ciavarella and his friends. “They did it,” Griffin quickly points out, “not the city.”

My son enjoys the game, but what have I, an American from many generations back, learned about the American pastime that was never really my own? Well, for one, I’ve learned that the game is of a different family of sport entirely from basketball and soccer, the primary sports I played growing up. Baseball moves at a more leisurely pace, broken by moments of tense anticipation and sometimes a thrill, like when my son recently hit a bases-loaded double driving in two runs. Wow!

I’ve also learned that baseball is very much a game of costume and manners. If you ever thought boy children weren’t into dress ups, go to Ciavarella Field on a Saturday and think again. White pants, brightly colored shirts, black sleeves, hats, shiny bats, leather gloves, and other regalia all adorn the children at our local ballpark theater.

And what a ballpark! The whole place feels like a lost version of my Dad’s Midwest, perhaps one that never really was, with big trains running along a levee in the background, a foreground of bright green turf, and a further background of big sky over flat land.

So come on down to Ciavarella Field on June 6 and grab a home-cooked pulled pork sandwich or a hot dog at the Snack Shack. This will be your last chance of the year to take in your own impressions of the distinctly American baseball culture that thrives in River Park.

Baseball Championship Day and Picnic Day Saturday June 6 at Ciavarella Field

9:30 a.m. – Rookies	Bounce Houses for the Kids!
12:00 p.m. – Majors	BBQ Buffet at the Snack Shack
2:30 p.m. – Minors	Fun for all!

The Snack Shack will have a BBQ buffet of chicken and ribs for \$5 per plate, which will include sides and a drink. For the younger players, we will have a T-Ball hot dog, sides and drink special. Jill Blackwell, our concessions director, will be working very hard to put this all together. There will be extra restrooms on this day and for the T-Ball finale.

A sincere tip of the cap is due to Shane Spence and Jim Ghilardi who were responsible for the creation of the new T-Ball field. They built a field for the league and for the kids in the neighborhood who primarily play in it, and they did it even though their own kids have moved beyond T-Ball. Thanks and thanks.



Colette’s Attic Closing June 6

Colette’s Attic, Joan Kruger’s unusual gift shop, is closing down on June 6, just eight months after opening in the River Park shopping mall. Joan says business has been good but not great and she’s moving on to a family trip to the East Coast and then back to Sacramento to consider reopening in a different location. Colette’s Attic opened in early October of last year with owner Joan Kruger saying that to open a gift/antiques store was the fulfillment of a lifetime dream.

Kruger says she’ll be boxing up all her stuff and will continue to market it online through EBAY and at www.ABEBooks.com

Joan says her goal is to operate a specialty shop like Colette’s Attic in Fair Oaks Village or in Midtown Sacramento. As some people reminded her last fall, River Park is so cut off from the rest of the Sacramento metro area that shoppers tend to miss it.

So what’s next for the now abandoned shop at 5493 Carlson? There are rumors: Some say it will be leased to the River City Healthcare and Pharmacy next door. A possible new bakery has been mentioned. But Joan’s eccentric collection of books, clothes, furniture, dolls and ephemera will be gone.

Au revoir

Save the River – Stop the Fence!

By Michael Stavros

Once again the warm weather has snuck up on us. Soon we'll be experiencing those magnificent Sacramento nights. Many of us like to take an evening stroll along the levee after dinner with our spouse or partner. Some of us enjoy walking with our children and teaching about the various constellations.

Well that may be all in the past, if the River Park Neighborhood Association is allowed to push their proposal to build a steel, tubular fence along the top of the levee with an "exit only" turnstile.

At the neighborhood association meeting (4/18) the problems were laid out – groups of teens drinking, and carrying on at Paradise Beach, using foul language, driving out of the parking lot recklessly and sometimes intoxicated and, yes, even a reported rape in the public bathrooms – right here in River Park.

Although summer weekends can draw a crowd, River Park still remains one of the most crime-free neighborhoods in Sacramento. Crime statistics do not support the assertion that we are plagued with a huge problem. While there are some appropriate measures that can be taken to minimize infractions, the fence proposal is not the answer. It is an extreme, ineffective, over-reaction.

Most of the problems mentioned occur in the day. The fence is designed to keep people from entering after sunset (all of us, no matter how peaceful our romantic walk may be). As for the reckless or drunk driving and the rape, the proposed fence would have no effect because these all occur outside of the barricaded area. Aside from being a useless eye sore along our beautiful levee, the fence proposal uses up much needed resources that could be used for more productive solutions, such as: random police patrols, perhaps a life guard to keep order at the beach (and maybe save a life in the process), perhaps an attendant at the parking lot to stop the people from bringing alcohol down to the river.

We have laws against alcohol at the beach, rowdy behavior and of course, drunk driving. We need to enforce those ordinances instead of caging in our beloved natural river like it's part of some artificial zoo exhibit. The fence proposal punishes us all for the sins of a few – and I mean a few. It's easy to spot the troublemakers. The majority of the young people are just trying to enjoy the beauty of the river. We criticize our youth for living behind their computer screens. We tell them to get out and get some fresh air. Now, we're telling them to go somewhere else. The problem is - there is nowhere else. The river is one of the few natural spaces left. Don't take that away.

A Fence Could Make Sense

By Jeff Harris

River Park has recently enjoyed increased law enforcement efforts at Glen Hall Park and Paradise Beach due to the lobbying of the RPNA. The credibility of our volunteer Neighborhood Watch and Night Patrol programs has allowed Police Captain Dana Matthes to justify the allocation of police resources for that effort. Increased patrols are already having the effect of reducing drunk driving, brawling, drug sales and property destruction in River Park.

RPNA also worked with city officials in the creation of the CPTED report (previously described in the Review, it outlines safety improvements for Glen Hall Park). CPTED recommendations include bathrooms remodeled to current safety codes, lighting in the parking lot, new signage, and a perimeter fence for the child play area. CPTED also recommends construction of a fence along the levee which would have self-locking gates actuated at park closing time.

The design of the proposed levee fence is still in flux, and will be presented at a future public forum - to be announced in the Review. This levee fence was *not* proposed by RPNA. Instead, city Park Ranger Greg Narramore and Police Sergeant Chris Taylor made the proposal. These professionals analyzed the past ten years of crime data and decided that a fence of this nature would materially assist law enforcement in reducing crime in our area. As the fence is a controversial issue, it will be considered in depth by RPNA once the design is finalized. The discussion at RPNA meetings is always open to all community members, and we encourage all interested people to attend. Thus far, public opinion has been decidedly in favor of **all** aspects of the CPTED report. RPNA has not yet brought the issue to vote. The city, not RPNA, will have the final authority over whether or not this fence is built. We encourage everyone to voice their opinions so that a meaningful outcome is achieved.

Mr. Stavros has ascribed many negative attributes to a levee fence. This fence would be closed only when it is illegal to be at Paradise Beach or on the flood plain (principally at night). It would not prevent the youth of today from getting fresh air nor consign them to a life of computer entertainment. It would not punish anyone. The aesthetics of the fence are indeed a valid concern, as are the expense and efficacy. I agree with Mr. Stavros that enforcement is the most viable means to reducing crime. To that end, perhaps Mr. Stavros would be willing to volunteer some time for Night Patrol to assist the police in that effort, and help keep River Park one of the safest communities in Sacramento.

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Big plans for Little Panda

The Little Panda Chinese restaurant in River Park has a new owner as of April 1st. He's Steven Li, a Sacramento native who learned to cook in Hong Kong and who, along with two other cooks, offers Cantonese, Hunan, and Szechwan dishes for both dine-in and take-out (it's about 50-50 he says). Steven plans a new menu, a new website, longer hours, and a new customer-friendly atmosphere that will include allow-



ing diners to take a taste of the day's special before ordering. For many years, Silver Chopsticks was the name of the restaurant where Little Panda sits. It was a favorite of Sac State students and staff and Steven now offers ten percent off to anyone with a Sac State ID.



Sharon Huang **Steven Li** Asked what is the restaurant's best dish, Steven first mentioned the Happy Walnut Shrimp then the Happy Family which has a bit of just about everything. Little Panda offers Chinese beers, sake, and plum wine and provides free delivery within the East Sacramento area. Little Panda is closed Mondays and is open until 9:30 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and until 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call Little Panda at **456-0845** to place your order.

4th of July Firecracker Parade and Festival

Come and enjoy the Firecracker Parade, the Mere Mortals band, food, games and prizes with your River Park neighbors.

Saturday July 4, 2009 10 a.m. - noon Glen Hall Park

Parade begins at Caleb Greenwood K-8 School at 10 a.m. (arrive at 9:30 a.m. to line up)

Mere Mortals band plays live dance music


Food and Game tickets will be sold for:
Hot Dogs \$1.50 Water \$1.00 Ice Cream \$2.50 Games \$5.00

This wonderful event is organized and sponsored by RPNA, with the help of great volunteers. **We need volunteers** for food preparation, games, ticket and food sales, set up and clean up and for staffing the bounce house. Please email Lupita Alcala Cortez at lcortez916@yahoo.com or call **916-254-2555** to sign up to volunteer for the 4th of July Fire Cracker Parade and Festival.

The Buffalo Chips 33rd annual 4th of July 5-mile Fun Run begins at 8:00 a.m. (7:45 a.m. for the kids half-mile race). Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. at Glen Hall Park. It's all good.



Happy 233rd Birthday!



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April 2009 River Park crime reports:

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

April 1	8:41 p.m.	Burglary Business	Shopping Mall
April 2	2:00 a.m.	Vandalism	Moddison at Carlson
April 7	6:45 a.m.	Burglary Vehicle	Fremont Church lot
April 15	12:05 p.m.	Burglary Vehicle	Fremont Church lot
April 18	3:40 p.m.	Burglary Vehicle	Sandburg near park
April 22	6:37 p.m.	DUI	Glen Hall Park lot
April 23	6:45 a.m.	Burglary Vehicle	Callister near Sandburg

Caleb Crisis Averted (For Now)

Community members with children at Caleb Greenwood K-8 School (or hoping to enter Caleb Greenwood) endured a brief moment of anxiety during the week of May 18 when the Sacramento City Unified School District's board proposed reducing the number of kindergarten teachers at Caleb Greenwood from four to two. This threat had everything to do with budget and politics, and nothing to do with underlying demand to enter Caleb Greenwood (the school had to turn away incoming kindergarteners last year). However, with pressure from the Parent Teacher Student Organization and other parties, the crisis has been averted at least for the present.

New RPNA members

Since January 1, 2009, RPNA has gained 11 new memberships and now has **430** members.

- Aneesah and Mussawar Malik Al-Mohsen
- Donald Bybee
- Tamara Cholger
- Marv and Jean Delfendahl
- Mark and Pam Hales
- Joan and Richard Herr
- Ron Keiser and Rona Leitner
- Terry Powell
- Matt Ralston and Stacy Davison
- Matt Sainson
- Keith Yetter and Heather Bollier

Welcome new members!

Stacey Wigglesworth

on Moddison was the first to call and report a typographical error in the May 2009 issue of the Review. It was a sneaky but obvious error on page 4. There is probably an error somewhere in this issue too.



Find it and report it fast and, well, you know.

\$\$\$\$\$

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In Brief:

- A seal was sighted May 5 and 6 frolicking in the American River just downstream from Paradise Beach. The shad were running and the seal was hungry but a long way from its home in the Bay.
- Meanwhile inland, a coyote was spotted roaming the streets of River Park on Friday May 15. Wild turkeys, seals, coyotes, what's next?
- Another Second Saturday bike ride will take place on Saturday morning June 13. Meet at 9 a.m. at Glen Hall Park. Mild ride not a wild ride. Call Bob at **451-1004** for more details.

- The Rive Park Garden Club commends Caleb Greenwood School for the recent floral improvements near the school's marquee. All are welcome to attend the Garden Club's next meeting June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Fremont Presbyterian Church's Ferguson Hall. Pam Myczek will show slides she took last year of rose gardens in China. New club president Ron McCormack will be installed.
- Learn more about the River Park Mothers' Club... The club welcomes expectant mothers, as well as mothers of children through elementary school age who live in River Park. Membership dues are \$30 per year. Activities this year have included a "Spa" event for mom's which raised money for a local family in need, a "Fun & Crafts" event for children, a "Cinco de Mayo" party for moms and a "Stranger Danger" children's safety seminar that was open to all River Park families. If you are interested in joining, or would like more information about the Mothers' Club, call Tracy Mullen, President, at **452-7960**.



Jeff Harris
455-0996

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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.

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Jeff Harris	RPNA President	455-0996	president@riverparksacramento.net
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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 a 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!