



River Park Review

Vol. 8, No. 4

www.riverparksacramento.net

Candidates for mayor square off Fargo, Padilla present. Johnson stays away.



Five of the seven official candidates for mayor of Sacramento made their pitches and answered questions April 26 at a candidates forum at Fremont Presbyterian Church. Mayor Heather Fargo, who's seeking a third four-year term, was there along

with Adam Daniel, Shawn Eldredge, Leonard Padilla, and Muriel Strand. But the superstar in the race, Kevin Johnson, was a Saturday morning no-show, as was candidate Richard Jones. Johnson insisted he was not snubbing River Park but had other pre-arranged commitments. And KJ said he definitely intended to knock on doors in the neighborhood sometime before the June 3rd election.

The mayoral candidates had two hours with the microphones followed by a solo presentation by Warren Harding who is challenging incumbent Susan Peters for the District 3 seat on the Sacramento County board of supervisors.

Highlights of the forum included Mayor Fargo's announcement of support for a county-wide assessment district to fund maintenance and improvements of the American River Parkway, and Leonard Padilla's statement that he would fire city manager Ray Kerridge, replace him with current vice-mayor Rob Fong and hire Fargo as an executive assistant. Padilla also said he would quickly fire a number of city employees as part of an effort to balance the city's budget.

Forty-five persons attended the forum, a number that reflects the obvious and oft-noted demographic change that River Park is undergoing. Lots of mobile young families have moved into The Park, in many instances replacing long time residents whose commitment to the neighborhood was almost proprietary. Whether River Park will become their permanent home, or just a stop on the way, only time will tell.



Where is everybody? Only thirty attend RP General Meeting

On Saturday morning April 19, approximately 30 of our neighbors attended the annual River Park General Meeting at Caleb Greenwood school. Those attending heard school officials discuss the need for improvements at Caleb Greenwood and the controversy over the consent decree high school. City traffic planners described in detail plans for new bike lanes and fewer car lanes on H Street. And there was a call to action to resurrect the Night Patrol on summer weekends.



RPNA board member Kristin Wright attended the General Meeting and had this observation:

When my husband and I were choosing where to raise our family, we searched for a neighborhood that felt like a real community. Hands down, River Park fit all of our criteria. We love living in River Park and have no plans to ever leave. I do find it curious, however, that while we all love the sense of community, safety, and tree lined streets, there is such limited civic participation in neighborhood meetings and events. While I can cite a variety of reasons for this apparent apathy, I can't help feeling disappointed that a well-planned, well-advertised, informative and valuable event such as the recent River Park General Meeting was attended by only a few of the neighborhood's more than 1600 households. This meeting provided a wonderful opportunity to meet the principal of Caleb Greenwood and hear how the neighborhood and school could truly partner in making it great. It was a chance to talk with city planners about the changes to H Street that will add new bike lanes and redesign traffic lanes to better and more safely connect us to downtown. Our neighborhood is rich in resources and location, but especially in its people whose unique gifts often go untapped. If we want to preserve the traditions and sense of community that sets River Park apart from other neighborhoods, we are all going to need to pitch in a little time. The summer months provide much opportunity to get involved. Please invest in the future of our great community by volunteering. It might even be fun!

To volunteer for any River Park Neighborhood Association event please call **Lupita Cortez-Alcala** at **254-5555** or email lcortez916@yahoo.com

To volunteer at Caleb Greenwood School please contact **Principal Christine Hanifen** at **277-6266**.

To volunteer for the River Park Night Patrol please contact **Jeff Harris** at **455-0996** or email Jeff at cadence@surewest.net

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS May 2008... and beyond

Saturday May 10

Arts in River Park

10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
6151 H Street

Live entertainment all day!

Art - Food - Kids' activities

Thursday May 15

RPNA Meetings

Block Captains 6:30 p.m.

RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.

Geneva Room

Fremont Presbyterian Church

Thursday May 29

RT Public Forum

Presentation of Sacramento

Regional Transit Master Plan

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Sacramento State Alumni Center

Voice your views on the future of public transit

Saturday June 14

Pops in the Park

6—9 p.m.


Glen Hall Park

Live music with "Q Balls" band

It's free!

Food and drink for sale

RPNA severs ties with Yahoo Group "Racist" comments spur action



At its April 17 board meeting, the River Park Neighborhood Association voted to remove its name from the popular Yahoo Group electronic bulletin board that has served the community for five years. The board acted in order to make clear that acrimonious and inflammatory statements posted to the Yahoo group are not sanctioned by RPNA. The board acted a few hours after the RPNA Yahoo group's moderator Joel Davis had removed a group member for posting what were alleged to be racist statements. In a message to the group Davis explained:

I am a free speech proponent, John Milton's marketplace of ideas and all that. But racism. Ugh... Maybe on the myriad other Internet sites, one of which I suggested earlier as an alternative. But not on my watch. The First Amendment protects free speech of all forms. But you cannot yell fire in a crowded movie theater. And racism will NOT be tolerated on a site I moderate.

The former RPNA Yahoo Group is now renamed the RiverParkBlog Yahoo Group and postings must be made to a new address : riverparkblog@yahoogroups.com. However you must be a member of the group to post a message. To join, send an email to the moderator at rpna-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you were already a member of RPNA Yahoo Group, you don't have to join the new group - your membership transferred automatically. But you should put the new email address for postings into your Address Book or Contacts list.

River Park's other electronic meeting place *RPList* remains in operation. To become a member of *RPList*, visit www.riverparklist.com and follow instructions you'll find there.

Community Garden in River Park ??

River Park resident Rachel Craig often drives by the overgrown empty lot on Carlson near Moddison and sees a dreamy field of organic bounty. Her comments:



Rachel and Eleanor

Motherhood involves a lot of trips to the park. When my school-aged daughters were little, they were the type of high-energy kids that required a daily park trip to get their willies out. One park in particular held great interest for them, but not for its tiny playground and tidy bushes. They asked for Fremont Park, downtown on 16th street for one reason only: across the street there was a Secret Garden with the gate always open.

Feeling like a trio of giddy girls, we'd trek across the busy intersection and down the side alleyway to find the open gate to the Mandella community garden. Peeking around the corner and sneaking inside, we felt as if we were entering a green wonderland. Vines tangled everywhere across a giant grape-arbor turned clubhouse, and we could stoop inside to sit in a cave-like room transformed by vegetation. We walked along grassy paths studded by neat rows of beds filled with flowers, vegetables, greens, and herbs so varied and numerous it was impossible to name them all, but we tried. As non-members, we'd wander through it hushed, almost reverent, reminding ourselves to leave the cherry tomatoes alone on the vines to ripen in the sun for their lucky gardeners. But we were glad that those gardeners, whoever they were, were openhearted enough to let a few admiring visitors come in to enjoy it for awhile.

I think of the Mandella Garden every time I drive past the "field of weeds" on Carlson, a neglected lot that is privately owned by a woman who does not reside in River Park. In the ten years since we bought our home here, she has refused calls from neighbors hoping to use the lot for other purposes while also refusing to mow or maintain the property. In return, those of us who pay a premium to live in this treasured, cozy enclave get to drive past an eyesore several times a day for years on end. River Park is a special neighborhood. How many more years must we drive, bike, and walk past this utter waste of valuable property? We deserve to transform this lot into something useful, educational, and beautiful for all of us here in River Park to enjoy.

It's a dream of mine to lead a project like this. Help me make it happen! Call Rachel Craig at **452-8032** or email rachel_craig@sbcglobal.net

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March 2008 River Park crime reports:

March 1	6:00 a.m.	Larceny-Theft	State Avenue (east)
March 11	12:35 a.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Minerva/Monalee
March 18	10:45 p.m.	Felony-Assault	State Avenue (west)



June 14 Pops in the Park features homegrown River Park band.

The Q-Balls, a local rock n roll band with River Park ties, will play this year's Pops In The Park concert at Glen Hall Park on Saturday, June 14th. Four members of the Q-Balls are River Park natives. John Quincy Brown, guitar and vocals, was raised on Cisco Circle and was a member of the Prophets, one of River Park's first rock and roll bands and a regular attraction at the Glen Hall Teen Center! Multi-instrumentalist Sean McAuliffe grew up on Monalee Avenue. Keyboardist Mike Caselli and drummer Jim Caselli were born in captivity on Spilman Avenue. The Q-Balls are rounded out by East Sac resident Ted Poppinga on vocals and Sacramento native Bruce Leino on bass and vocals.

The Q-Balls play a fun blend of the greatest songs from the 60's and 70's by such artists as Jackson Browne, Loggins & Messina, Jimmy Buffett, Tom Petty, Van Morrison, and more. Band manager Sol Siler says, "The Q-Balls are one of my top acts and always deliver the goods. I know that the Pops In The Park concert will be the highlight of their summer tour. I can guarantee a splendid time for all."

Pops in the Park 6-9pm Saturday June 14 at Glen Hall Park

Sac State Calendar of Events

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

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His oyster now !

Fifth grader Dylan Weightman, who lives with his parents on Carlson, heads for Europe in July after being chosen as a People to People Student Ambassador. Dylan made it through a tough application and interview process to win the honor. For 20 days he'll travel with forty other U.S students though the U.K. and Holland, meeting with students from many other countries. Dylan is a student at the John Morse Elementary School (Waldorf) in south Sacramento.

Fiver!

Heather McBride on Spilman found the typo in the April issue and won five dollars.

Be a winner too!

Be the first to find the typo in this issue.

Call and claim your prize.

Do it now before this gets out of hand.



Cell phone doomsday

Beginning July 1, 2008 it becomes illegal in California to operate a motor vehicle while using a hand-held cellular telephone. Almost everybody seems to do it now. It's about to become against the law. Like with the ban on wood fires at home, enforcement will undoubtedly start slowly, with plenty of publicity and second chances.

So if you want to talk on the phone while driving, get a hands-free device or pull over to the side of the road. Somebody will become a tragic object lesson. Don't let it be you.



River Park Resident

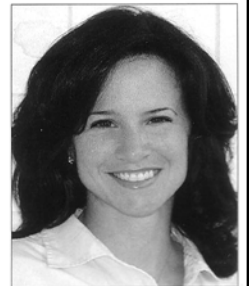
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In brief:

- * **River Park Mothers Club** May 17 will attend Sleeping Beauty 2-4 p.m. at the 24th Street Theatre.
- * May 31, 5-7 p.m. is the **Mothers Club Family Potluck**. See www.bigtent.com/groups/rpmc for more info.
- * The next **blood drive** will be Sunday June 15 10 a.m.-2 p.m. across Carlson from Caleb Greenwood school.
- * Sacramento now has a **2-1-1** telephone information system in operation. The old Infoline seven digit phone number is now **2-1-1**. It's available 24/7 and connects with a live operator in Sacramento who can provide information on more than 2,400 non-profit and public agency programs related to housing, senior care, job training, food programs, and health care. Call **2-1-1** for non-emergency but vital information. It doesn't work yet for cell phones so use your land line if you have one.

- * Caleb Greenwood's annual **Jog-a-thon** takes place on Friday May 16 on the school campus. Caleb students will run laps between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. with the goal of raising \$24,000 for School Beautification projects. You can sponsor a jogger by calling the school or you can send in a donation. Caleb Greenwood's address is 5457 Carlson. Phone number **277-6266**. Or just stop by Friday morning the 16th. (Bring your checkbook)
- * Volunteer now to help organize the famous **River Park 4th of July festival**. Kids parade, games, food and drink stand. We need help. Contact Steve at **716-2765** or harriman@surewest.net

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Cold comfort food

It's 102 degrees outside and I'm hungry. I go into a Sacramento restaurant and suddenly it's 68 degrees. Refrigerated air blasts onto my neck. My goose pimples shiver. I ask for another table, but it's not much better. When my food arrives, it's cold within minutes.

What to do? I could wear a sweater, heavy sox, and a ski hat. But hey, it's 102 outside.

Once upon a time restaurants had No Smoking sections. Maybe a No A/C section would work. I guess most folks like a quick trip from the desert to the arctic (and back). What did our Victorian forefathers and foremothers do during Sacramento summers? Die like flies? I guess I'll go to a movie instead. Uh-oh.

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2008 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.

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