



River Park Review

Vol. 6, No. 5

www.riverparksacramento.net
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/rpna

How fast is too Fast?

In 2004, a River Park neighborhood committee was organized to review and make recommendations regarding a growing concern over street safety and specifically vehicle speed and intersection traffic. The committee's recommendations were confirmed and residents concurred in a city mail-in vote by the neighborhood.

As a result, the city installed four-way stop signs at several intersections along Carlson Drive, speed humps on some streets, pedestrian islands along Carlson Drive and reflective dot stripping in the middle of Moddison Avenue to better designate the traffic lanes. In early 2006, the final pedestrian islands were installed at Carlson and Sandburg.



However, many residents still voice concerns about speeding. The intersections of Messina and Carlson Drive, and Moddison and Carlson Drive have been the sites of several recent vehicle accidents. Neighbors frequently see vehicles coast or do a 'California' or 'Hollywood' stop at posted stop signs. Oftentimes drivers don't bother to coast through the intersection but, instead, drive straight through.

The California Vehicle Code allows cities to set specific speed limits for streets within their boundaries for a variety of street environments. Speed limits in business districts or residential areas are 25 mph unless signs show other limits. In River Park the speed limit on Carlson Drive is 30 mph. All other streets in the area are 25 mph. The speed limit around Caleb Greenwood School is 25 mph whenever children are present outside the fenced school grounds, including Carlson Drive.

During March and April, city traffic enforcement was regularly seen along Carlson Drive writing citations for



speeding and not stopping at intersection stop signs. Does enforcement have a lasting affect? Have the islands, humps, dots and stop sign installations affected street safety?

A City of Sacramento Engineering Services website states "people frequently ask to lower the speed limit on residential streets to make their streets safer and more livable. It is a common misconception that speed limit signs reduce collisions. Studies indicate that no significant change in average vehicle speeds has occurred after the posting of new or revised speed limit signs. In fact, research shows no direct relationship between posting speed limits and collision frequency.

(► Speed p.2)

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS

MAY 7
Blood Drive
Sunday
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Bloodmobile
5458 Carlson Drive

Blood drive hosted
37 donors in March

MAY 13
Arts In River Park
Saturday
10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

River Park Shopping
Center
Music, Arts, Crafts
River Park
Restaurants

MAY 18
RPNA
Neighborhood
Watch
Block Captains
Meeting
Geneva Room
Fremont Presbyterian
Church
6:30 p.m.

MAY 18
River Park
Neighborhood
Association
Monthly
Board Meeting
Geneva Room
Fremont Presbyterian
Church
7:30 p.m.

Coalition aims to Can the Trash!

Can The Trash!, a coalition of bicycle advocates and environmentalists, is spearheading a campaign to promote a switch to “containerized” pick up of yard green waste. Dumping yard waste in city streets results in higher costs for the city and residents, localized flooding and contamination of water in streams and rivers. Using containers helps clean waterways and neighborhoods.

Many Sacramento residents already are using containers through a voluntary program, enjoying savings on their utility bills and the convenience of the program, which includes street pick-ups during times of high volume green waste.

The Can the Trash Coalition is educating the public about the impacts of dumping yard debris in the street and is urging Sacramento residents to sign up for the city’s voluntary containerization program.

More information on the Can the Trash! Coalition and Sacramento’s voluntary containerized pick up program is at <http://www.sacbike.org/greenwaste/>

Speed: Can anything be done?

(From p.1)

A more effective speed reduction measure is to use “...a radar device to clock and exhibit motorist speeds. This oversized display board... helps control chronic speeding problems by letting motorists know when they are exceeding the limit.”



The traffic committee’s recommendations and police enforcement appear to have had some impact on the neighborhood, but, are additional changes still needed? What is a ‘safe’ and ‘appropriate’ speed within River Park? Should the neighborhood have a higher or lower speed limit? How fast is too fast? When is a stop not a stop?

If you have thoughts on this subject, please e-mail them to publisher@riverparksacramento.net.

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Hérons scout area for new nesting sites

If night herons establish nests in your tree, you won't enjoy the result. With spring upon us, people again are finding bird excrement and crawdad remains on their cars, driveways and in the street. The herons are large, loud, and messy and have become a major nuisance in the neighborhood.

However, the time to discourage the herons from nesting this year is nearing an end. Once the birds start active nests and lay eggs, they become protected and no abatement and mitigation efforts to encourage them to relocate are legally possible.

It takes personal effort by neighbors to dissuade the herons from starting a nest, but, it does not require a large investment of time or money. Tree trimming definitely has discouraged the birds from nesting and people who trimmed their trees this past winter now



have fewer herons and they find it easier to keep them away.

Several groups of neighbors now are working together to disturb the herons at dawn and dusk, using lights, laser pointers, noisemakers, and high-pressure water nozzles and RPNA helped purchase several high-powered lights. These mitigation efforts definitely are working. The birds won't build nests with all the noise and light activity around them. The neighborhood is making progress in discouraging the herons.

However, as anticipated, there are birds out scouting the neighborhood for other places to nest. They have been seen east of Carlson Drive and west of Minerva and in trees at Carlson and Moddison. Progress in encouraging the herons back to the American River Parkway and, perhaps, Bushy Lake, will continue only if people are vigilant and prevent nest construction.

The City of Sacramento tree maintenance crews will dislodge new nests, if requested. There is no charge for dislodging the nests. This will not include any actual tree trimming and homeowners are expected to work with private tree trimming companies for that kind of work. If you have new nests that need removing, you should contact Jeff Harris at 456-0996 or e-mail cadence@surewest.net. Harris will arrange directly with the city tree maintenance crews for the nest removal.

Harris can be contacted for any information you may need about heron mitigation efforts. He also can loan out the high-powered lights.

Harris warns that the herons very soon will begin laying eggs. Once that happens, nothing can legally be done to disturb the birds.

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In Brief:

Annual Pancake Breakfast

It's coming again and it's not too early to begin building up an appetite. So, save the date: Saturday, June 3, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, juice and lots of syrup. This is a fun neighborhood gathering.



Mothers' Club Rummage Sale

The River Park Mothers' Club is seeking donations of gently used furniture, home decorations and books for a fundraising rummage sale. The sale will be in June.

Proceeds help support club activities such as trips to the zoo, Fairy Tale Town and Discovery Museum and holiday parties for neighborhood children. If you have items to donate, contact Eva Martinez at 457-7725.



Pops-In-The-Park

Another great season of Saturday night pops concerts in East Sacramento parks will begin June 3, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in McKinley Park with music by Funkengruven.

The following Saturday, June 10, Glen Hall Park will have music by Garratt Wilkin and The Parrotheads. Bring a picnic, blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy a cool evening with cool music and dancing on the green for people of all ages.

Food, ice cream and beverages are available from local restaurants.

What If It's True?

Pastor Gordie Ziegler, Fremont Presbyterian Church, will facilitate a discussion on questions about God, the Bible, God's Son Jesus, and His church four Monday nights, May 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 7:00 p.m. Free coffee and an honest discussion at the River Park Javalicious Café.

Think of us first!

GBC

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"I'll Be Aware"

Breast Cancer Walk

The third annual "I'll Be Aware" walk in River Park will occur Saturday, June 24, at 9 a.m. beginning at Glen Hall Park.

Albie Carson, a longtime resident of River Park, passed away from breast cancer in July 2002. Her family and friends established the Albie Carson Breast Cancer Foundation to further awareness of the need for continual testing following any breast cancer treatment, even when the cancer is considered cured.

Event coordinators are looking for sponsors and have several sponsorship levels available. Sponsorship packets, team and registration information is available by calling 927-1592; cplove@cwnet.com or www.albieaware.org. Remember donations are tax deductible.

2006 RPNA Contacts/Membership information

RPNA membership is on a calendar year. If you would like to check or renew your membership, call Alanna Butterworth at 457-6445 or e-mail alannab@surewest.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
Alanna Butterworth	RPNA Membership	457-6445	alannab@surewest.net
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Billy & Eve Martinez	Block Captain Coordinators	457-7725	rvrk3@surewest.net
Dan Keller	Newsletter Editor/Publisher	457-5928	dak@surewest.net

To submit an article to the River Park Review, please e-mail information to publisher@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.

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