



River Park Review

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www.riverparksacramento.net

A new mayor promises anti-crime action

At a meeting with the River Park Neighborhood Association's board of directors three weeks before he was elected mayor of Sacramento, Kevin Johnson urged voters to "please hold me accountable" and toss him out of office in four years if he does not perform adequately as mayor. Johnson noted that his priorities are 1) Public Safety, 2) Education, and 3) Development. But the spurt in crime in River Park was the chief topic of the evening. Asked about the problems at Paradise Beach, Johnson, who admitted to partying there in his Sacramento High School days, said he would meet with sheriff's department and police officials to immediately address the issue. "It is not a hard problem to solve," he said confidently. The candidate also committed to arranging a joint River Park meeting with Sheriff John McGinness and Police Chief Rick Braziel aimed at settling long-standing jurisdictional issues related to the city-owned Glen Hall Park and the county-owned Paradise Beach.



Meanwhile the RPNA board was told that a crime report outlining weak spots in Glen Hall Park should be released soon. Board member Jeff Harris, who has been working with authorities on the report, says it will focus on "crime prevention through environmental design" (CEPTD). Harris said one priority will be improving "decrepit" signs intended to warn park users of rules for both the park, which is closed from sunrise to sunset, and perennial summer problem spot Paradise Beach. Harris added that authorities, who joined him for a lengthy walk-through of the park, like the idea of more lighting and "seem pretty excited about motion-detector lights." He added that the park bathrooms - a sexual assault was reported in the women's restroom in August - are being targeted for makeovers. However, a cyclone fence first proposed two decades ago along the park's southeast perimeter was deemed "weak." Harris noted that a wrought-iron fence - not unlike the fence around the park's pool - would be a sturdier and more aesthetically pleasing choice, but could be very costly at a time when civic funding is scarce.

Neighborhood activist Lee Ruth countered that the portion of a cyclone fence that was installed behind the children's park has proven effective in the 20 years it has been in place near his home. He advocated continuing the fence along the disputed area, which now extends to the H Street Bridge.



October 16 RPNA board meeting

Kevin Johnson had displeased the RPNA board in April when he failed to appear at a well-planned and well-publicized candidates forum. But on October 16 Johnson did indeed show up, addressing the RPNA Board and the few audience members in attendance. Johnson spoke and fielded questions for about 45 minutes. The nattily attired Johnson avoided criticism of Mayor Heather Fargo other than to say she squandered a surplus when one existed in the city coffers on her watch. Instead he invoked the name of the late Mayor Joe Serna as a role model of sorts. Continued on page 4

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS November 2008... and beyond

Thursday November 20

RPNA Meetings

Block captains 6:30 p.m.

RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.

Fremont Presbyterian Church

Geneva Room

All are welcome

Saturday November 22 Neighborhood General Meeting

"Meeting of the Minds"

Caleb Greenwood School 3 p.m.

All are Welcome

River Park organizations, clubs, etc. will meet and share information, hopes, and dreams

Thursday November 27

Thanksgiving Day

Run to Feed the Hungry

Carlson Drive closed

6 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

25,000 runners in East Sacramento

Sunday December 7

California International Marathon

Thousands of runners will disrupt traffic on Fair Oaks Blvd. and J Street.

Cheer them on!

RPNA Membership and Election

Candidate statements

Barbara Debert – Incumbent. Barbara has been a resident of River Park since 1986. She currently serves as treasurer of the RPNA board. A retired LCSW, MFCC, she has extensive background as a MH clinician, program developer and administrator. She is interested in crime prevention and resident safety issues, and supports the wide variety of recreational and educational events that RPNA brings to the neighborhood. Barbara is a strong advocate for working with the city and other governmental agencies to insure that the needs of residents and the neighborhood are met.

Hi! I'm **Sandy Harrison** and I've lived in RP ten years. I'm the communications director for a professional association in downtown Sacramento, and was previously a capitol press secretary and news reporter. I'm known as an avid outdoors person and dog lover. Until he died earlier this year, my old dog Rip and I walked through River Park and along the river nearly every day. When I get another dog, we'll do the same.

My name is **Amber Kemp**. I live in River Park with my husband David and our beautiful 16-month old son, Bo. I love River Park and I truly believe it is one of the best neighborhoods in Sacramento. Over the past year, I have participated in the River Park Mothers Club and Night Patrol and have enjoyed meeting neighbors who are equally passionate about our community. I am a Special Assistant to Board of Equalization Vice-Chairwoman Betty T. Yee. I am also the Editor for the League of Women Voters of Sacramento Voter Newsletter. A native of Sacramento, I attended Christian Brothers High School. I also have a B.A. in Women's Studies and an M.B.A., both from Mills College in Oakland, CA. I am passionate about my community and have volunteered in the past at the following organizations: WEAVE, Wellspring Women's Center, St. Hope Academy, Loaves and Fishes, Students Reaching Out, California NOW, The American Indian Education Program (SCUSD), and Upward Bound (Mills College). I would be honored to serve on the RPNA board and contribute my energy, creativity, leadership, passion

Hornet Bookstore beware

Textbook competitor opens in River Park

Bookaneers, which aims to undercut the Hornet bookstore on the CSUS campus, opened for business October 20 in the River Park shopping center space previously used by Bennett's Pastry. Bookaneers owners Fernando and Tamara Figueiredo say they expect slow business most days of the year, but during those few frenzied days when Sac State students are buying (and selling) textbooks for new classes, they expect a line of customers down the street. That's been the experience at their other book store in Davis. Fernando says he'll pay more for used textbooks and sell them for less while making a tidy profit. Overhead is cheaper than at the gorgeous new Hornet Bookstore on campus and the Figueiredos can handle a smaller profit margin. Bookaneers also offers discounts to student groups, fraternities, etc. And there will be promotions -bicycle, scooter, and ipod giveaways for example.

Non-student customers are also welcome. A few bestsellers are now in the window. Once the class book lists are announced, the shelves will fill quickly. The first big student rush is expected in mid-December. Come in now while it's quiet.



Fernando Figueiredo and assistant Sanjit Singh

and dedication to support the efforts that make our neighborhood a safer, more enjoyable place to live. Favorite quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

My name is **Pamela Kennedy**. I live in River Park with my husband Rob Scheideman. We raised our daughter on Sandburg Drive and she now attends the University of Oregon. I am a life time credentialed teacher and have been in business for myself for the past 28 years. I live on the levee and enjoy all of the treasures associated with River Park. I am interested in helping with the River Park board in order to protect this neighborhood.

Matt Mitchell has been on the RPNA board for four years, and has served as board president since January 2007. Early in his tenure at RPNA Mitchell played a key role in reversing the direction of the 4th of July parade so that it ends under the shady trees at Glen Hall Park. More recently he has been active in the issue of green waste containerization and with the push in early 2008 to address concerns about high school options for River Park residents. Looking forward, Mitchell has special interests in schools, transportation, and in helping with some form of RPNA initiative to assist seniors.

Mike Montgomery has lived in River Park for over 22 years. As a radio reporter for over two decades, he covered Sacramento city and county government as well as state government and politics. He currently works as a consultant for a non-profit seniors organization in downtown Sacramento. He has been the secretary of the RPNA board for almost two years and has served as editor of the River Park Review for over a year. Please vote for Mike Montgomery. Thank you.

Lauren Morgan has been a resident of River Park for 7 years. She has a child attending Caleb Greenwood who is active in River Park sports. In the fall of 2005 Lauren attended the City of Sacramento Management Academy and in May of 2006 she was appointed to the City of Sacramento's Small Business Development and Employment Advisory Board. Lauren wishes to continue the great work the RPNA board has been doing regarding staying on top of issues with the City and our neighborhood school.

Hello, my name is **Alex Read**. I am 29 years-old and I would like to serve on the RPNA board. My wonderful wife Jennifer and I bought our first home, on Callister Avenue in River Park nearly two years ago. She is a teacher for a special day class in Sacramento and I work in the marketing department for a local university. In addition to our commitment to education through work, I volunteered as an assistant baseball coach at West Campus High School in the past and look forward to similar opportunities in the future.

We chose to reside in River Park because of its reputation as a family-oriented community. After nearly two years of living in River Park, serving with the Night Patrol and attending some RPNA board meetings I can state honestly, that our expectations have been exceeded and that River Park is indeed, the best place to live in Sacramento. However, like all good things, I believe that River Park has room for improvement.

The two specific issues that come to mind are that of crime and the non-existent comprehensive local high school. I would like to aid the board in resolving these types of issues as well as helping the board tackle future matters as they arise. The one-thing I have learned from reading as many RPNA newsletters as I can, is that the issues do change. I believe that my enthusiasm and dedication to River Park will be a great asset to the board as we strive to better our community.

I take pride in where I live. I would be honored to serve my community as a board member for the RPNA. Let's work together to keep River Park the best place to live in Sacramento.

RPNA members will soon receive a written ballot in the mail. When you receive your ballot, please vote for no more than five candidates and promptly return your ballot in the postage paid envelope that will be included. You must be a dues paying member of RPNA in order to vote.

To check your membership, email membership@riverparksacramento.net

New sign at entrance to Paradise Beach

A bold new sign appeared at the levee entrance to Paradise Beach in mid-October. It declares, in five languages, that all children entering the American River must wear life vests.



River Park activists have long been concerned about the deterioration or absence of proper signage that would warn beachgoers that alcohol consumption, dogs off leash, and after-hours partying are all illegal activities.

The new sign is welcome, both for the content of its message, and for the precedent it sets for future improvements. Meanwhile, the Sacramento Bee reported on October 9 that the city will no longer supply doggie poop bags in Glen Hall Park due to budgetary considerations. The Bee reports that the city thoughtfully will soon install containers at the park into which dog walkers can contribute extra poop bags for others to use.

Burn if you dare

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District says it's not kidding this winter. Last winter was a dry run, but as of November 1, if you emit wood smoke from your chimney on a "No Burn Day" you may receive a letter of warning. If it happens again, you could be fined fifty dollars.

Check the Bee weather page to see if it's OK to burn, or call **1-877-NOBURN-5** or **1-877-662-8765**, or visit <http://www.sparetheair.com/burncheck.cfm>

If you want to report your neighbor who is polluting the air on a No Burn Day, call **1-800-880-9025**. It's anonymous.



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September 2008 River Park crime reports:

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

Sept. 6	6:12 a.m.	Burglary business	shopping mall
Sept. 7	11:30 p.m.	Auto theft	shopping mall
Sept. 23	3:15 p.m.	Burglary vehicle	Moddison/Erlewine
Sept. 28	3:21 a.m.	DUI	Glen Hall parking lot

Doris Cirill on State Avenue quickly noted that the previous issue of the River Park Review announced only one of the locations of River Park's two traditional polling places.

Doris is absolutely right. Voters on the north side of Carlson Drive cast their ballots at the Scottish Rite temple. Congratulations and lunch money to Doris!



Sac State Calendar of Events
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<http://calendar.csus.edu/CampusCat.asp>
 Sports, art, music, theatre, new bookstore, great library

River Park Mothers Club

November - December 2008 events

Tuesday Nov.18 Business meeting 7 p.m.
Tuesday Dec. 9 Ornament Exchange 6:30 p.m.

For further information and to RSVP go to:

www.bigtent.com/groups/rpmc

or call 505-8756

Membership is open to expectant mothers and to all mothers of children through elementary school age.

Rebecca Warren, CMT 451-5550
Jean Yun, CMT 441-0983
Deja Kjoller, CMT 452-7456

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In brief:



- **Model A Ford** Need garage space (single would be large enough) to park 1930 Model A. Vehicle is in excellent condition. Can pay \$25.00 per month. Would prefer a garage in River Park or other area close by. Please call **455-7747** and ask for Pat or Frank, River Park residents.
- **Student Parking** Sac State students are continuing to park, often illegally, in River Park. In mid-October the university placed "Dear Neighbor" door hangers on homes in River Park that are closer to the campus. The message from Sac State parking director Nancy Fox urges anyone with questions to call her at **278-PARK**. Fox wrote that a flier for the offending students' windshields is coming.
- **The fall 2008 River Park general meeting** will take place at Caleb Greenwood School at 3 p.m. Saturday Nov. 22. The RPNA board of directors has decided that this should be a "Meeting of the Minds" at which organizations in River Park can meet together and make plans to coordinate their activities. The PTSO should know more about what the Baseball Club, the Mothers Club, the Garden Club, etc. are doing. Don't miss this meeting.

- **McKinley Village** River Park and east Sacramento in general are slowly becoming aware that developer Phil Angelides' McKinley Village proposal could have a substantial impact on our communities. A tunnel under the UP railroad tracks from Elvas to the new community might not directly impact River Park. But it would definitely increase traffic on Elvas. Take a look at <http://www.mckinleyvillage.net/access.html>
- **The Cal Expo/ Kings Arena** commission will make its recommendations known soon. A major renovation of Cal Expo plus a huge new basketball coliseum could be in the works. As anyone who hears the race track announcer from their porch knows, noise travels. Can't someone just figure a way to go back to 1960?
- **Design Review** Another continuing concern for some is the size and appearance of houses being built or remodeled in River Park. One person's dream home may be an ugly McMansion in his neighbors' eyes. The city has a design review process for parts of east Sacramento but not River Park. Money is now a problem for the city so this issue will keep churning.

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Happy Holidays



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esbnb.com | Sunday 12-5

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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**.

NAME	ASSOCIATION	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Thanks always to Silvio Suine and his army of block captains who deliver the River Park Review to your doorstep. Great job!