



River Park Review

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www.riverparksacramento.net

Action promised on River Park crime problems

Sacramento mayor Heather Fargo took careful notes September 18 at the monthly meeting of the River Park Neighborhood Association. Less than seven weeks before city voters decide if she serves a third term, Fargo was in campaign mode. The mayor's campaign staff had sought this meeting and she was accompanied by campaign assistants and her newly controversial police security escort. The entire eleven member RPNA board was present in the Fremont Presbyterian Church meeting room as were a dozen River Park residents.

The mayor said she was aware of the recent sexual assault in Glen Hall Park. She was given copies of a 1987 city council resolution authorizing construction of a chain link fence along the entire levee in Glen Hall Park, a fence that was never completed. Fargo was also asked to use her good offices to arrange a joint meeting of the RPNA board with Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness and Sacramento City Police Chief Rick Braziel. Fargo quickly indicated that both the fence and the "chiefs" meeting were now a priority for her.

RPNA board member Jeff Harris noted that movement is already underway to increase security in Glen Hall Park and Paradise Beach. Harris said he had recently met with law enforcement officials and that a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) report for Glen Hall Park will be completed very soon. The CPTED report will focus on five major issues:

- Lighting around the park and parking lot
- Trimming of hedges that prevent visibility
- New signs stating park usage rules



RPNA Board meeting
September 18, 2008

- Fencing along the levee and a gate at the point of entry into Paradise Beach
- Remodeling the bathrooms for safety

Once the CPTED report is presented, sources of funding will be developed to implement the changes. RPNA funds will likely be one source of revenue. Other goals include an improved Neighborhood Watch and more police patrols.

The River Park community has been shaken by the August 19 midday sexual assault, a bloody Sunday afternoon brawl in the Glen Hall parking lot August 24, a nighttime burglary at the neighborhood Laundromat on September 4th (see photo),



and an act of vandalism at Caleb Greenwood School on September 5th.

It's unclear whether there is a genuine upsurge in crime in River Park. What is clear is an increased determination by many in our community to find real solutions to the problems related to Paradise Beach, the Glen Hall parking lot, and the continuing level of property crime in all parts of the neighborhood. Positive action on this issue now appears to be a real possibility.

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS October 2008... and beyond

Saturday, October 11
Electronic waste Free Drop Off
 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.
 St. Mary School parking lot
 1351 58th Street
 Bad old TVs and computers YES
 fluorescent bulbs NO

Thursday October 16
RPNA Meetings
 Block captains 6:30 p.m.
 RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
 Fremont Presbyterian Church
 Geneva Room
Everyone welcome!

Sunday October 20
Blood drive 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Bloodmobile
 5458 Carlson Drive
 Give your blood!
 No pain
 Tri-tip BBQ served to donors

Tuesday November 4
VOTE!
 Register by Oct. 20
<http://www.sos.ca.gov/nvrc/fedform/>
 Polling places for River Park are
 Caleb Greenwood School and
 Seventh Day Adventist Church
 Check your ballot for location



Joan Kruger

Collette's Attic opening set for Oct. 4

Joan Kruger's lifelong dream should now be open for business in the River Park shopping mall. Joan says her shop will be open six days a week 10-6, 11-3 on Sundays. So what is *Collette's Attic*? Who was Collette? And who is Joan Kruger?

Collette's Attic is an antique

shop, a book shop, and a vintage clothing shop. Joan specializes in children's books and making fancy hostess gift baskets. Stop by and see. She also does tarot card readings. As things develop she hopes to take in special things for sale on consignment.

Collette - according to Wikipedia - was a wild French author of the early 20th century, known for her many and varied love affairs. Are we ready for what's in her attic?

Joan Kruger is an artisan and adjunct faculty member at American River College. She teaches courses in English, creative writing, folklore, and films.

Joan is aided in her project by her daughter Erin who lives in River Park. Joan might also be looking for part-time help. She'd love to take over the community bulletin board that used to hang on Javalicious's wall. She wants to do Second Saturday. She's not licensed to serve food, but hints that a coffee pot is in the back. Her number is **400-4453**. *Collette's Attic* is her first shop. Lets all cross our fingers.

School supplies pour in

On September 10, 2008, California's Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell attended the first Caleb Greenwood School Supply Drive, initiated by Caleb 8th grader Alexandra Alcalá. RPNA was part of the effort along with the Caleb Greenwood Parent Teacher Student Organization and the School Site Council. Superintendent O'Connell commended Alexandra's leadership in this project and said that "it serves as a terrific example to all and it highlights the idea that we all have a stake in education.

From students to parents to teachers to neighborhoods to the business community, everyone has a stake in ensuring that our children have the best possible shot at success in the future." In addition, O'Connell highlighted the lack of a state budget and lamented how the late budget and looming cuts have already affected Caleb Greenwood. He noted increased class sizes, reductions in special education teacher aides hours, and GATE and other enrichment programs that are now paid for by the parents. O'Connell strongly urged the Governor and the Legislature to pass an equitable budget so that the educational needs of all students can be met.

The Caleb Greenwood school community would like to thank the following for their generous donations: the **RPNA**, **OPA! OPA! Restaurant** on J Street, **FedEx Kinko's** on J Street, **Debra's Dog House**, **Save Mart Supermarkets** on Folsom, **Safeway** on Howe and **Wellbody Aquatic Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy** on El Camino, as well as parents, grandparents and neighborhood residents.




Approximately \$1000 in school supplies and cash donations was collected. These supplies will be issued to classrooms, students, and teachers throughout the year.



Student organizer Alexandra Alcalá and state schools chief Jack O'Connell


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Jennifer Farrar was the first person to notice the redundancy typo in line two of the lead story of the most recent issue of the River Park Review. Thus she gets the "finders" fee. Several other folks caught it too, but Jennifer was the first. Sharp eyes (and bright smiles) run in her family.



Greyson and Jen

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POLITICS AND THE RPNA

Reflections by Matt Mitchell, 2007/08 RPNA President

In late August I received a gratifying letter from Susan Miller, Interim Superintendent at the Sacramento City Unified School District. The letter stated that, as a result of recent SCUSD Board direction, "exclusive use" agreements would no longer be considered for charter schools.

OK, I'll admit, that sounds a bit dull. But from my perspective this was a big deal. Earlier this year, probably for the first time, the RPNA board entered the fray of formal school board advocacy. We opposed the use of Marian Anderson Elementary as a site for a new "consent decree" high school in Sacramento, and also opposed continuation of the exclusive use arrangement St. HOPE Public Schools had maintained over the Sacramento High School site used by generations of River Park youth.

The letter from Interim Superintendent Miller meant that the RPNA got what we asked for on both counts.

It would be silly, of course, to think that these victories were somehow a direct result of the RPNA's advocacy positions. A lot of other organizations and individuals were involved. Still, it's clear to me that adding our organizational voice did make a difference.

All of which raises a larger question related to the RPNA's role as an organization that engages in politics (or advocacy, to use a less freighted term).

The reality is that the RPNA has probably always done things that might be considered political. No, I do not mean taking sides in local races for elected office. Nor do I mean lobbying for bills.

But in the larger sense of the word, politics simply comes with the territory in an organization like the RPNA. Often this "political" component arises from a decision *not* to get involved with a particular controversy! For example, the Board made a very clear decision a couple of years back not to get involved with the issue of Mercy Hospital expansion. Last year we took no action on a push by some neighborhood residents to involve our organization in asking the City to institute "design review" over development proposals. In the recent controversy over the showing of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* at Glen Hall Park, the Board listened but did not take a formal advocacy position.

These were mostly non-controversial choices, but sometimes the decision not to take action can generate a lot of controversy. For example, the RPNA Board's recent decision not to call into question the public input process behind the City's plan to place speed lumps on Moddison Avenue disappointed some River Park residents (and pleased others). A decision to get involved would have generated the same result, just with the roles reversed. Sometimes you really can't please everyone.

Another 2008 transportation project where the RPNA could have tried to get in the way, but consciously didn't, was the bike lanes re-stripping through the H Street underpass. Neighborhood associations in Sacramento are notorious for blocking projects both good and bad, and I'm proud that the RPNA did not attempt to get in the way of this one.

In still other instances the board has played the role of political midwife. I'm thinking here of the recent controversy over green waste containerization, where staff from Councilman Cohn's office asked us to look into whether the RPNA board could support an optional program allowing neighborhood residents to choose green waste containers over in-street green waste pickup. After hearing many (sometimes vociferous) comments from neighborhood residents, the Board came out in favor of allowing River Park residents who wanted the containers to receive and use them. A year later, the great majority of neighborhood residents do use green waste cans.

Finally there are the circumstances where the RPNA board takes a true advocacy position, unprompted by the City staff, local elected officials, or anyone else. The two ultimately successful advocacy stances we took as a board related to local high schools are an example of this.

Given the recent spate of crime problems affecting the neighborhood, and especially given the gravity of the sexual assault incident at Glen Hall Park, it may be time for the RPNA to take another set of advocacy positions, this time around neighborhood safety and crime prevention.

To this end please consider attending the October 16 RPNA board meeting. We hope to have mayoral candidate Kevin Johnson, Sacramento Police Chief Rick Brazziel, and Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness in attendance. The board meeting will take place Thursday October 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Geneva Room, Fremont Presbyterian Church.

RPNA moves toward 501(c)(3) status

The River Park Neighborhood Association is taking steps to change its status from a so-called 501(c)(4) non-profit organization to a 501(c)(3). These arcane designations refer to sections of the Internal Revenue Service code that describe the activities, benefits, and limits associated with non-profits. RPNA has hired attorney Brian Regan to assist the conversion from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3). The process, including application fees and attorney costs, is expected to total slightly more than \$1000 and should be completed sometime next year.



RPNA was formally incorporated in 1993 as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit public benefit corporation. But as the association has grown it has become apparent that its 501(c)(4) status is a handicap, primarily because contributions made to 501(c)(4) organizations are not tax deductible. Persons wishing to make large contributions or bequests to RPNA may be discouraged from doing so by the knowledge that their gifts are not tax deductible. Gifts to a 501(c)(3) are tax deductible, thus the need for change.

RPNA is also moving forward with a very minor modification of its Articles of Incorporation in order to correct three grammatical errors. RPNA is also contemplating a more extensive revision of its bylaws. The revision may include new definitions of the boundaries of the River Park neighborhood to specifically include Paradise Beach and an expansion of membership qualifications to allow employees of businesses operating in River Park to become RPNA members. Proposed changes to both the Articles of Incorporation and the bylaws will be submitted to the general RPNA membership via written ballot.

None of the changes contemplated will change RPNA's essential nature. RPNA will remain non-partisan and essentially non-political. Although RPNA, through its elected board of directors, may take positions on specific issues related to the welfare of the River Park neighborhood, it will not be empowered to advocate for specific legislation or endorse the election of any candidate for public office. RPNA's focus is, and shall remain, "to enhance the livability of the River Park area," to act as "liaison between the neighborhood, government agencies, and other neighborhoods," and to "provide an open process by which all members of the neighborhood may involve themselves in the affairs of the neighborhood." Direct quotes from the RPNA Articles of Incorporation.

Perfect day for river trash collection

Dozens of East Sacramentans participated in the Great American River Cleanup Saturday morning September 20. The weather was perfect: cool, bright, and clear with a refreshing breeze. Fluffy white clouds and flocks of V-formation ducks and geese only added to the day's pleasure.

Using separate plastic bags for trash and recyclables, volunteers scoured the Paradise Beach area, the levees, and the myriad foot trails that weave among the woods. There seemed to be a consensus that this year's collection was less than last year's. Two shopping carts were found in the brush last September. This time only one. Most of the debris seems to emanate from daytime visitors and their trashy behaviors. Lots of cigarette butts, broken glass, and fast food wrappers. But some trash is also clear evidence that people are spending the night in the area, making small fires, and staying a few days before moving on.



River Park is particularly blessed, not only for its proximity to the beautiful American River, but also for the dedication of those from our own neighborhood and outside who volunteer to keep this area clean.

So, don't let this be just a once a year thing. If you see trash anywhere in River Park, pick it up, and look for a proper trash can. Like an unrepaired broken window, trash (and graffiti) communicate a message of indifference to criminal behavior. Not here.

August 2008 River Park crime reports:

Aug. 1	4:00 PM	Larceny Theft	Moddison/Lovella
Aug. 3	10:00 PM	Auto Theft	Shopping mall lot
Aug. 5	12:43 AM	Auto Theft	Carlson/Dittmar
Aug. 8	8:00 PM	Larceny Theft	Ruth Court
Aug. 13	9:00 PM	Larceny Theft	Dittmar Way
Aug. 14	3:15PM	Larceny Theft	State Ave. west
Aug. 14	6:00PM	Burglary - Vehicle	Shepard Ave.
Aug. 14	10:45 PM	Burglary - Vehicle	Shepard Ave.
Aug. 19	12:37 PM	Assault - Felony	Glen Hall Park
Aug. 24	9:18PM	Assault - Misdemeanor	Glen Hall Park
Aug. 26	6:00PM	Burglary - Vehicle	Callister near school
Aug. 28	9:10PM	Vandalism	Monalee/Sandburg

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

District 3 city councilman Steve Cohn and Sacramento mayoral candidate Kevin Johnson spoke briefly at River Park's fall picnic on September 27.

At least one hundred residents and friends attended the picnic in Glen Hall Park. The Mere Mortals Band played and good times abounded.



Sac State Calendar of Events

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

Sports, art, music, theatre, new bookstore, great library

Rebecca Warren, CMT 451-5550

Jean Yun, CMT 441-0983

Deja Kjoller, CMT 452-7456

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Candidates sought for RPNA board election

RPNA is seeking candidates to run for five board of director seats. Barbara Debert, Matt Mitchell, and Mike Montgomery are running for reelection. Dave O'Toole and Bill Piper are leaving the board, creating two open seats. The mail-in election will be in December, but now is the time to advance your candidacy. Submit your name, contact information, and a short statement to Bill Piper at

membership@riverparksacramento.net.

Board membership is hard work, fun, and you'll learn a lot. Any current RPNA member may run for the board, and you must be a member in good standing in order to vote. The annual cost of membership remains \$10. If you are unsure of your membership status simply e-mail Membership Director Bill Piper at

membership@riverparksacramento.net.

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In brief:

- **VOTE! November 4 VOTE!**
- **Trunk or Treat** at Fremont Church is definitely happening Halloween night starting at 6:30. Carnival games, hot cider, a bounce house. Stop by on your ghoulish route.
- Some suggestions for next summer's Screen on the Green:
The Sunshine Boys, Babe, Young Frankenstein, Airplane, Annie Hall, City Lights(Charlie Chaplin), Auntie Mame, The Sound of Music, Ivanhoe. Mickey Rooney is not in any of these films.
- Caleb Greenwood PTSO is selling 2009 Entertainment Books for \$40. Buy one at the school office or call Karen Halbo at **739-1025**. Money goes for various school improvements.
- Principal Christine Hanifen offers a special thanks to all those wonderful River Park community members who keep a sharp eye on Caleb Greenwood School after hours and on weekends. It's really everybody's school and everybody's business.

- Become a member of the RPNA board of directors. No kidding, we really need candidates to step forward now. Five board seats are open. Election in two months. The top vote getters get the seats. Contact Bill Piper at membership@riverparksacramento.net
- A family fun run and pancake breakfast will take place Saturday, December 13 at Caleb Greenwood School. The Flapjack 5K run and the Shortstack kids run both begin at 8 a.m. Holiday breakfast at the school follows the run. Lace up your Keds and bring your appetite.

River Park Mothers Club
October 2008 events

Thurs.	Oct 9	7 p.m.	Wine and Cheese Night
Tues.	Oct 14	7 p.m.	Book Club
Sat.	Oct 25	10 a.m.	Halloween Party at Glen Hall Park

RSVP or more info www.bigtent.com/groups/rpmc
Membership is open to expectant mothers and to all mothers of elementary school age children in River Park.



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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
Matt Mitchell	RPNA President	736-2029	president@riverparksacramento.net
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Bill Piper	RPNA Membership Chairman	455-8539	membership@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 the typo. **ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE: Business Card-Plus: \$75; Business Card: \$50; Insert: \$150**
Thanks always to Silvio Suine and his army of block captains who deliver the River Park Review to your doorstep. Great job!