



River Park Review

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www.riverparksacramento.net

Candidates needed to run for RPNA board of directors Statements of qualification due by October 1st

It's election time for the River Park Neighborhood Association. RPNA's eleven-member board of directors is elected by the dues-paying members of RPNA. (See membership article on page 3) There are six openings this fall. Current board members Aneesah Al-Mohsen, Barbara Debert, Matt Mitchell, Mike Montgomery, and Alex Read are running for re-election to two year terms. A vacancy created by the resignation of board member Kristin Wright will open a seat for a one-year term.

The election will take place by mail in October and November. Bona fide RPNA members will be mailed a ballot with candidate statements and a stamped return envelope to ensure a high voter turnout.

Persons who wish to serve on the RPNA board must be paid-up members of RPNA. They should submit by October 1st a candidate qualification statement of no more than 150 words to RPNA's Membership and Elections Chair Andrea Schroeder at acbeile@yahoo.com. Those statements will appear in the next issue of the River Park Review. The top six vote getters in the election will become members of the board. Of those six, the candidate with the lowest number of votes and who is not an incumbent will be assigned the one-year term created by Wright's resignation.



Membership on the RPNA board entails hard work but is also fun and rewarding. Board members take responsibility for planning and implementing RPNA activities such as the Fourth of July Festival, neighborhood general meetings, liaison activity with local governments, attendance at monthly board meetings, and production of the River Park Review to name a few. The board in 2011 will face many important neighborhood issues including how to keep Glenn Hall Park swimming pool open, what to do about continuing problems at Paradise Beach and their spillover into River Park, RPNA fundraising and the anticipated advent of RPNA as an official 501c3 non-profit organization. RPNA board positions are voluntary and unpaid. Once certified, candidates are urged to campaign in the neighborhood, although paid advertising is discouraged.

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS

September 2010..... and beyond
Thursday Sept. 16
RPNA Meetings

Block captains 6:30 p.m.

RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.

Fremont Presbyterian Church

Geneva Room

All are welcome

Saturday Sept. 25
**Great American River
Cleanup**

9 a.m. - noon

Glenn Hall Park

Help keep it tidy

Thursday Oct. 21
RPNA Meetings

Block captains 6:30 p.m.

RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.

Fremont Presbyterian Church

Geneva Room

You are welcome to attend

Saturday Oct. 23
River Park
Fall General Meeting

10 a.m. - noon

Caleb Greenwood School

Attend and participate

River Park Review – Advertising

The RPNA board of directors has changed the face of advertising in the River Park Review. Aneesah Al-Mohsen, who is currently serving as secretary of the board, has now graciously accepted the duties of billing and collections for the advertisements that appear in the River Park Review. With this change comes a change in policy that was approved by the board at the August 19th, 2010 monthly board meeting. Invoicing for ads will be generated in advance and payments will be required before the ads are approved for placement in the Review. Aneesah has set up a new software program that will generate invoices and reports that will more efficiently and accurately keep track of the revenues from advertising. Emailing invoices as an attachment will now be an option for the advertisers which will help expedite the process. If you wish to place an ad in the next Review, please contact Aneesah at riverparkapt@yahoo.com or at 739-1566. Once payment has been received, the next step will be to submit the ad by contacting the newsletter’s editor Mike Montgomery at 457-2933 or email him at editor@riverparksacramento.net. Ads must be prepared in JPEG format and emailed to the editor. We wish to take this time to thank all the people who have submitted ads to the River Park Review. They have contributed not only the revenue that helps defray the cost of the publication but their ads also represent our neighborhood and its business friends to the wider Sacramento community.

Entering Paradise



Glenn Hall Park improvements stall

The long-planned and long-promised improvements to Glenn Hall Park have been delayed again. City officials had assured the River Park Neighborhood Association that a new parking lot gate, totally renovated toilets, a motion-detector spotlight for the parking lot, and a new emphasis on cutting back vegetation that could hide malefactors, would be implemented by spring of 2010. Later the date slipped to mid-August and now the actual construction and implementation has been put back to September or beyond. Jeff Harris, RPNA’s former president and now a member of the city Parks and Recreation board says that despite the city’s ongoing budget crisis, a permit has been issued for the bathroom remodel. Harris says all the projects will still be built, perhaps by the end of 2010, but no guarantees.

Need your lawn mowed and don't want to pay a whole lot? I am the guy for you! \$10 per week for a mow, edge, & weed eat. Got other chores maybe clean the gutters or just anything around the house let me know and I may be able to do it for you.



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RPNA membership keeps growing

The River Park Neighborhood Association's membership is the highest it's been in years with a whopping 758 members! Great job!

Many thanks for the continued support that we have received from 28 families, who recently renewed their membership. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the 7 new families who have joined the River Park Neighborhood Association! Welcome!

Judy & Troy Armstrong
Karen Conrod
Nena Dancer
Emma & Matthew Fritzen
Nancy & Neil Lubin
Linda & Bill Parker
Fred Sette

Although this is a vast improvement, this is still not even 50% of River Park households. If you have not joined or renewed, now is the time! The swimming that your children and grandchildren enjoy at Glenn Hall Pool, the walks that your dogs take on the bike trail, the dancing you partake in while at Pops in the Park, the snow cones you enjoy during baseball games at Ciavarella Field, and, most importantly, the tranquil environment promoted by the River Park Neighborhood Watch and Night Patrol are all facilitated by the RPNA, but we need your support!

RPNA membership dues are the lowest in the city and are **only \$10** for one year; **\$18 for two years** and **\$25 for three years**. Your membership can help preserve and enhance our very special neighborhood. Thank you so much for your support! Membership dues can be mailed to: **RPNA P.O. Box 19866 Sacramento, CA 95819**

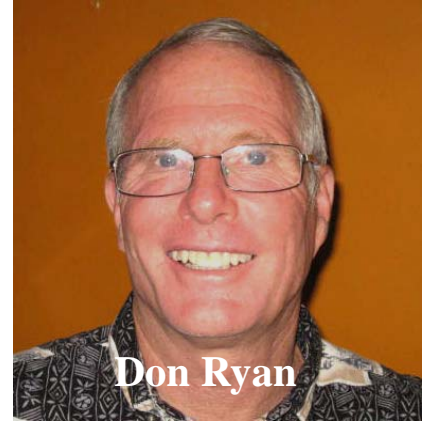
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311 City of Sacramento non-emergency police and other city government services
411 Local directory assistance
911 Emergency

Shopping Center owner seeks input

Stockton dentist Don Ryan owns the River Park Shopping Center and the apartments at 5483 Carlson Drive. Ryan spoke with Mike Montgomery on Friday August 27 at the abandoned Fire Café.



Don Ryan

Since 1976, Don Ryan has been a quiet but powerful presence in River Park. As owner of River Park's only shopping center on Carlson Drive, he has seen businesses come and go, including two supermarkets, a gas station, and half a dozen restaurants. Some businesses have done well, such as the Silver Chopsticks (now Little Panda) Chinese restaurant. Mamma Susanna's and the previous pizza parlor have drawn business from outside the neighborhood. Mr. Zee has been there almost forever. The nail salon and laundromat and Debra's Dog House do well as does the medical office/pharmacy. And the convenience store is always busy. The cell phone tower provides solid continuous service.

But some other kinds of businesses don't do so well. In early August, Dan Kok, who leased space for his Fire Café, suddenly disappeared. No contact since and only a few vague rumors. Several months earlier, Josephine Della Casa abandoned her Shavonni's Treasures Indian imports shop without notice.

Ryan would like to find a business that would work in each location. The Fire Café had been Javalicious restaurant for a few years. But nothing seems to work in that space. It's always a struggle. Ryan says some kind of 'dual use' business, perhaps a morning coffee house and an evening "meals on wheels" site, would allow the space to make at least a small profit.

Now Don Ryan is seeking input from River Park. What kind of business would best serve both his needs and the community's? He laughed off the notion of a medical marijuana dispensary. Ryan notes that over the years he has been a generous friend to ailing businesses in the complex. He complains about city regulations, specifically concerning false fire alarms. And he's frustrated with the constantly cut-through back fence under the railroad tracks. He says he could have provided a solution for River Park's carwash crisis in June, when water runoff issues forced the carwash to become a dry interior detail event instead. His sump pumps could have taken the runoff and conveyed it easily to the trees along Carlson producing no sewer runoff.

Ryan is nearly finished repainting the entire shopping center exterior. He's serious about ideas for new businesses that could upgrade the center and, by extension, all of River Park. If you have a suggestion, email it to

editor@riverparksacramento.net

Long Distance Swim

Could a “Mixed” Membership Model Work for River Park’s Pool?

By Matt Mitchell

Not long ago on National Public Radio, I heard a story about a small town in Ohio that had raised some \$12,000 to keep their local swimming pool open. Not bad, I thought, except that River Park has now raised a similar amount for our pool two years running! Why aren’t we on national radio?

The truth is, we probably should be. This community rocks!

But the other truth is that raising big dollars at car washes to keep Glenn Hall Park pool open for minimal recreational swim hours does not a long-term strategy make. Nor does the option of relying on the city, which seems for the foreseeable future to be in the mode of downsizing and triage when it comes to its recreational facilities. And, let’s face it, in the emergency room that the city Parks and Recreation budget had become, our little pool is likely to continue to get triaged out.

So if car washes aren’t a long-term strategy, and we can’t rely on the city, what other strategy is there? I think I may have an idea, but to get there I also have an admission to make. My family is part of a trend. Two summers ago, we made the decision to join the College Greens Swim & Racquet Club. As I write this, in fact, I can casually count fourteen other River Park families with elementary school-aged children who have made the same decision.

The reasons I see so many River Park families whenever I show up for a swim team practice at College Greens are both many and obvious. College Greens is open every day, from April till early October, including evenings. It has a small but serious swim team with a real competitive tradition. You can BBQ right next to the pool, feet on a grassy lawn, nice glass of Zinfandel in hand. The pool is heated -- sometimes not as much as I’d like – but it is heated. Not being run by the understandably litigation-conscious city, College Greens has retained its wickedly fun three-meter diving

board. I could go on, but perhaps the most telling fact is this: College Greens is currently full to capacity.

Of course a private club, even a relatively inexpensive one with a kick back vibe, is absolutely not the same as a public pool. The public model offers one huge benefit the private membership model doesn’t, and that is access. Swimming at Glenn Hall Park pool isn’t free, but it’s still quite cheap, and that’s clearly important in this recession. Our local pool offers some other smaller benefits as well. For one, a kid from River Park can bike there, which is actually a big benefit if you have older children. Our pool has a nice slide, and it’s immediately adjacent to a highly pleasant city playground (much nicer than the private one at College Greens). The pool itself is quite large, with a shallow end that’s truly shallow, a major advantage for small persons in the pre-K set. Perhaps also owing to the litigation consciousness of the city, the lifeguards at the River Park Pool seem to enforce the rules quite tightly, which is a mixed blessing but probably a good thing overall.

So, on the one hand, we have an asset in River Park that truly is worth saving. On the other hand, my family and many other local families have already voted with our feet for a private, membership-model pool. All this suggests to me that we need, as it were, to bring the two hands together and explore some kind of “mixed” membership model for the River Park pool. Could the city partner with a private organization (College Greens or some other one) that would be willing to offer expanded pool hours to members for a fee? Could membership dues help subsidize at least as many public swim hours as we buy now with our car washes? Could this general type of model create a membership base big enough to allow local kids to compete on a swim team that’s as large and competitive as the ones from the swaggering clubs of the suburbs? I don’t know, and the details would be devilish as the saying goes. But still, it seems to me that a mixed membership model is definitely an idea worth exploring.

Grassroots effort seeks to save county parks

by Steve Harriman

These are challenging times. Every level of government is struggling with the cruel reality of falling revenues and increasing costs of public services. The result is intense competition for precious tax dollars, and the competitors include public safety, education, health care, infrastructure... and parks. The River Park community is blessed with a beautiful city park and close proximity to the American River Parkway, which is the jewel of the county park system. Our neighborhood is well aware of the financial struggles of the city parks department, and we have risen to the occasion with successful fundraising efforts to keep Glenn Hall pool open two years running.

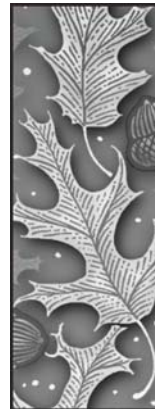
While the city parks department is injured, it appears the county parks system is dying a slow death. As reported in the Sacramento Bee, the per capita spending on county parks has fallen from \$5.44 per resident in 2001 to \$1.33 in the current fiscal year. In real dollars, the county parks annual budget has steadily declined from \$6.2 million to \$1.9 million during that period. The results are visible and depressing, and include reduced security, deferred maintenance, and permanently closed park facilities.

The good news is that the River Park Neighborhood Association has been invited to join a grass roots effort organized by the Save the American River Association (SARA) that is exploring alternative funding and management scenarios for county parks. The fundamental issue is that county parks currently must compete for general fund dollars, and the result has been the steady decline of the park system. The goal of SARA is to have a ballot measure in 2012 that would provide a consistent funding source and alternative management structure for the county park system.

Parks are public spaces that we own, manage and enjoy together. As such they are a true reflection of our community values and priorities. Sacramentans have been committed to parks since the construction of McKinley Park in 1871, and it's time that we step up and work together to promote and protect our parks. Stay tuned for updates and visit www.sarariverwatch.org for more information.

John Conner on Erlewine Circle found the typo in the last issue of the Review. Such a simple thing too. Misspelling a common everyday street name.

John wins the summer prize. Meanwhile there is probably at least one typographical or word usage error in this issue of the Review. If you are the first person to notify the editor, you'll have your picture in the next issue holding a fiver. So read carefully and then act boldly.



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Dogs of River Park

“Aw Shucks”

Aw Shucks can often be seen running on the bike trail alongside his yellow friends, Spooner and Ellie, and their two-legged companions. He loves peanut butter and carrots. Shucks is most known for his playful antics - when not escaping out the front door for a self-guided tour of River Park or taunting rattlesnakes in the back yard, he enjoys lounging in the sun.

Aw Shucks is a nine-year old yellow Labrador Retriever and is a member of the Gallagher family on Sandburg.



Take a chance! Send a quality close-up digital photo of your River Park dog to editor@riverparksacramento.net

Keep our river area clean!

This year’s Great American River Cleanup will take place Saturday September 25th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Participation in the Cleanup is a real contribution to the health of the American River parkway and the American River itself. Removing trash and debris prevents pollutants from entering the watershed, harming the wildlife, or creating hazards for recreational users. Additionally, keeping the Parkway clean protects ocean life by preventing trash from being washed downstream during winter rains.

The Great American River Cleanup is held in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day with the sponsorship of the California Coastal Commission. This annual cleanup is held throughout California along bays, creeks, lakes, highways and the Pacific coast.

Here in River Park, participants will come to Glenn Hall park and be given large plastic bags in which to put cans, bottles, cigarette butts, waste paper, and all other trash. In past years large amounts of trash have been brought back to the park for proper disposal. It’s advised that participants wear work gloves, long pants and heavy shoes if they plan to search in the wooded areas or along water’s edge. Participants will be offered water and snacks at the park.

There is some indication that the City of Sacramento will attempt to remove the stranded motor boat that’s been stuck in the river opposite River Park since early February.



Here’s the boat as of late August

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River Park crime reports: June – July 2010

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

June 2	10:00 p.m.	Glenn Hall Park lot	Larceny theft
June 16	1:00 p.m.	Glenn Hall Park lot	Burglary vehicle
June 19	1:00 a.m.	Moddison near Teichert	Burglary vehicle
June 22	11:00 p.m.	Sandburg near Carrington	Auto theft
June 28	8:30 p.m.	Glenn Hall Park lot	Burglary business
July 4	2:30 p.m.	Sandburg near Seward	Vandalism
July 8	11:30 p.m.	Sandburg near Caleb (south)	Burglary residence
July 10	7:58 p.m.	Carlson near Callister	DUI
July 13	Midnight	Teichert Avenue	Larceny theft
July 22	3:00 p.m.	Glenn Hall Park lot	Burglary vehicle
July 23	8:38 p.m.	Glenn Hall Park lot	Burglary vehicle
July 24	11:50 a.m.	Sandburg near Caleb (south)	Burglary residence
July 25	10:45 p.m.	Shopping center	Burglary business
July 29	2:03 a.m.	Sandburg near Caleb (south)	Burglary residence
July 29	6:55 a.m.	Teichert Avenue	Larceny theft
July 30	2:00 a.m.	Monalee Avenue	Burglary vehicle
July 31	12:30 a.m.	Carlson near Caleb	Vandalism
July 31	10:30 a.m.	McAdoo Avenue	Burglary residence

Incident on Moddison Avenue - August 31, 2010 *The writer wishes to remain anonymous.*

Last evening, August 31st at 5:35 p.m., my family noticed a suspicious person walking in the street and down the street going south on Moddison Ave, south of Breuner. He was a white male approx. 35 yrs. old, dirty, unshaven, dark tan complexion, with greasy dark brown/black shoulder length hair, wearing black levi shorts, length below his knees, and with no shirt. He appeared possibly under the influence of something. He just did not look like he lived in River Park. We called the non-emergency Sacramento City Police number: 264-5471 and reported this suspicious person. We also called two neighbors along Moddison Ave. near Erlewine and near Bevil. The neighbor near Erlewine had just arrived home from work and told her husband that she had just seen a suspicious man with that very same description, noting that he was now sitting on someone's lawn. She agreed that she, too, would call the non-emergency police number to report this suspicious person and she also felt that he appeared to be under the influence of something. We then called our second neighbor, as this suspicious man had turned around and was now walking back towards both of our homes. Our second neighbor also observed this suspicious man and heard him also shout obscenities in front of his (our neighbor's) home and he also phoned the police's non-emergency number and reported this suspicious person. Within a few minutes of these three phone calls, two Sacramento City Police patrol cars arrived at Moddison near Teichert and this suspicious man put his arms in the air, according to my second neighbor. The suspicious man was placed in the patrol car and the police transported him out of River Park.

Staying observant and taking action when needed as neighbors will enable River Park to remain a safe neighborhood for us to live and to love.

We thank the Sacramento City Police for their responsiveness! Especially working in such difficult economic times.

Glenn Hall Park Volunteers Needed!

Due to the city budget crisis, the Parks and Recreation staff has been substantially downsized. As a result, our neighborhood park will be getting far less maintenance attention than we are used to. This condition is going to last as long as our economy is slow, so I am starting a volunteer corps to assist Parks Services in keeping Glenn Hall Park looking good. Primary tasks will be pruning and hedging, planting and weeding (no bathroom cleaning!). Depending on the number of volunteers, the time commitment will not be great- perhaps 10-20 hours over the course of a year. I am hoping to get a group of at least five consistent volunteers, and a network of others who can assist on a hit or miss basis. All workdays will be coordinated with a city crew depending on the park needs. All you will need is gloves and a desire to spend a few hours improving your community. For more information please contact: Jeff Harris (Parks Commissioner, Dist.3) cadence@surewest.net

In brief:

- Neal Graham has run the Sunday blood donation drives in River Park for eight years and now he's looking for a replacement as Blood Drive Chairman. Contact Graham at nealbear@gmail.com
- The evening of August 28 was unseasonably cool, but it didn't stop a good 200 River Park folks from enjoying *Aladdin* at this year's Screen on the Green at Glenn Hall Park.
- The RPNA board of directors has decided not to sponsor a Fall Picnic this year. Maybe next year.
- Fremont Nursery School will be having a free electronic waste collection fundraiser on Saturday October 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fremont Church parking lot, Carlson at H Street.

- People are still talking about the great face painter at River Park's July 4th Festival. So thanks again to Opa! Opa! Restaurant, and owner Phil Courey, for the generous contribution that made faces brighten.
- River Park Garden Club's next meeting is Thursday November 4th. Howdy Hoover will talk about the "Original Gardening and Farming" of the River Park area. Meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at Fremont Presbyterian Church's Ferguson Hall. All are welcome.



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2010 RPNA Contacts/Membership information

RPNA membership is on a calendar year. If you would like to check or renew your membership, call Andrea Schroeder at 454-4200 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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Billy & Eve Martinez	Block Captain Coordinators	457-7725	rwrpk3@surewest.net
Andrea Schroeder	RPNA Membership	454-4200	membership@riverparksacramento.net
Mike Montgomery	Newsletter Editor	457-2933	editor@riverparksacramento.net

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!