



# River Park Review

Vol. 10. No. 8

[www.riverparksacramento.net](http://www.riverparksacramento.net)

## Pluckebaum, Teague, Parkins, Brauner win RPNA Board seats; Debert and Montgomery re-elected

After counting the votes on December 6, the River Park Neighborhood Association's Membership and Elections Committee declared these six winners and their vote totals:

|                 |     |                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Barbara Debert  | 271 | Kimberly Teague | 238 |
| Mike Montgomery | 269 | Shane Parkins   | 229 |
| Phil Pluckebaum | 262 | Douglas Brauner | 206 |

All 776 paid-up RPNA member households had been mailed ballots in early November. A total of 322 ballots were returned with each ballot allowing a choice of up to six candidates. The six newly elected or re-elected members of the board will assume office at the January 20, 2011 board meeting. The 11-member board will then choose its officers.

RPNA seeks to improve the River Park neighborhood by promoting open lines of communication and acting as a liaison between the neighborhood, government agencies, and other neighborhood associations.

In 2011 the RPNA board expects to focus on the problems related to the city's ongoing budget shortfall and its effect on park maintenance, crime, and the swimming pool. RPNA also hopes to expand the Neighborhood Watch crime patrols. Popular annual events such as the Fourth of July festival and parade are also on the agenda. RPNA will also continue its efforts to become a 501c3 non-profit organization which will allow it to expand its fundraising efforts on behalf of the neighborhood as a whole.

RPNA board members are volunteers and serve without pay. Any and all River Park residents are encouraged to volunteer their efforts to make our neighborhood even better. Visit [www.riverparksacramento.net](http://www.riverparksacramento.net) for more information.

## Holiday lights contest!

'Tis' the season for Holiday Lights! The River Park Neighborhood Association will sponsor its Holiday Lights contest again this year. Entry forms are available at the River Park Laundromat and on the RPNA website: [www.riverparksacramento.net](http://www.riverparksacramento.net). Entry forms are due by Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and must be placed in the Holiday Lights box at the River Park Laundromat by 5 p.m. that day to be considered for judging.

The first place winner will receive a \$75 gift certificate to One Speed, the new and very well reviewed restaurant located at 4818 Folsom Blvd. The second place winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to River Park's own Mamma Susanna's Italian restaurant. Third place will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Nopalitos Southwest Cafe which has long been a favorite of River Park and East Sacramento residents. The fourth place winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate to another neighborhood favorite, OPA OPA, the fabulous Greek restaurant owned by River Park's own Phil Courey.

In addition to the above residential prize winners, honorable mention recognition will go to displays ranking 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place. Recognition will also be given for best block display and best business display. The Holiday Lights committee is seeking volunteers to help with judging this year's contest. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Debert at [barbaradebert@comcast.net](mailto:barbaradebert@comcast.net) or committee co-chair Alex Read at [abread09@yahoo.com](mailto:abread09@yahoo.com). We need residents who are not entrants in the contest who can commit to two or three hours on Tuesday evening December 21<sup>st</sup>. It's fun and a great way to see some beautiful and very creative displays. RPNA President Steve Harriman will be taking pictures of the winning displays. A picture of the winning display will appear in the River Park Review.

### UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS

### December 2010..... and beyond

**Saturday Dec. 11**  
**3rd annual Flapjack 5k**  
 (adults) and Shortstack (kids)  
 Fun Runs  
 Registration 7:00 a.m.  
 Races at 8:00 a.m.  
 Caleb Greenwood School

**Saturday Dec. 11**  
**Holiday Pancake Breakfast**  
**9 a.m.**  
 Caleb Greenwood School cafeteria  
 A River Park tradition

**Thursday Jan. 20 2011**  
**RPNA Meetings**  
 Block captains 6:30 p.m.  
 RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.  
 Fremont Presbyterian Church Geneva Room

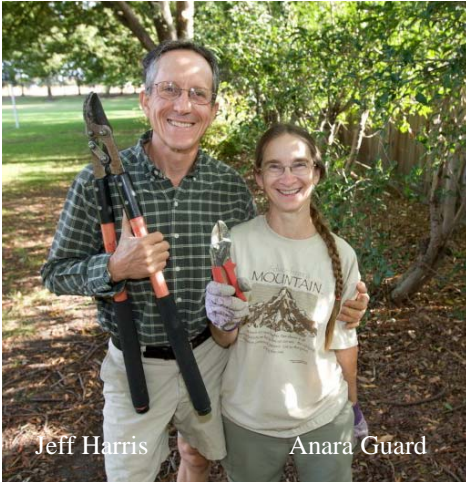
**Thursday Feb 17 2011**  
**RPNA Meetings**  
 Block captains 6:30 p.m.  
 RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.  
 Fremont Presbyterian Church Geneva Room

## Volunteers Give Glenn Hall Park a Trimming

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, sixteen volunteers met to clean up and spruce up our neighborhood park. They arrived with pruners, loppers, saws, ladders, and cordless hedgers at 9:00 o'clock on a Saturday morning, ready to get to work. In the course of 2 ½ hours, the bushes surrounding the tennis courts and pool house were neatly manicured, and the east fence line was brushed out and cleaned to the best extent in twenty years. Additionally, all of the redwood trees had basal shoots removed. On the following Monday, city parks workers removed the brush piles, leaving the park looking great! The volunteers ranged in age from four to over seventy, and judging by the smiles, a good time was had by all.

The volunteer group formed to fill the gap left by the recent layoffs of park services personnel due to the budget crisis.

The city just doesn't have the workers needed to keep parks in top condition. Volunteers will meet 4-5 times a year to help maintain Glenn Hall Park. Given the amount of energy and enthusiasm displayed at the first



Jeff Harris

Anara Guard

volunteer event, Glenn Hall Park should look top notch without a great time commitment by any one person. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jeff Harris at [cadence@surewest.net](mailto:cadence@surewest.net).

## New Advertising Options in the Review!

Advertising in the River Park Review will be undergoing some new and exciting changes in 2011! Beginning with the first 2011 issue, there will be more options available to businesses that wish to advertise in our neighborhood publication.

In the September issue, changes were outlined concerning the billing methods for our advertisers. At the RPNA board meeting in August it had been decided that payment for advertising should be collected up front, that is, prior to an ad being printed. Some advertisers chose to continue under this policy, others did not.

In the Fall issue, a plea for advertising help was sent out and answered by two River Park residents, Janet Mason and Hilda Kerfoot. Janet, who brings a background in graphic design and advertising, will help with the creative side while Hilda will be responsible for the billing and financial aspects of dealing with our advertisers. These new volunteers bring the opportunity to make the River Park Review self sustaining through new advertising options, and hopefully, increased revenue.

As we move forward in 2011, we will be implementing a "Directory of Services" in which businesses can have a "listing" which includes their industry (Plumbers, Electricians, Landscapers, Realtors, etc.), their company name and address, phone number, email and web address. We hope this will be a valuable tool for River Park residents and businesses alike. We will be offering these listings for \$10 per month; \$7.50 per month with a 6 issue commitment.

We will continue to offer our traditional advertising at the current rates - \$50 for a business card size (2" x 3.5"), \$75 for a business card "plus" size (3" x 3.5"), and \$150 for our 1/2 page ad (5" x 7") or for an insert, which can be as large as 8.5" x 11."

We encourage you to participate by advertising in our listings, as well as by purchasing display ads. Please contact Janet Mason at [ibd@surewest.net](mailto:ibd@surewest.net) to schedule your ad, and for information regarding how to send your ad, (acceptable formats, etc.)

## Yoga Classes

Geared for people 50 and older or people who want a slower paced class.

First Class: \$6.00

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(next to Cordi Bros.)

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## RPNA membership now 776

The number of dues-paying members of the River Park Neighborhood Association continues to grow, reaching 776 in early November. RPNA's newest members deserve a special greeting:

**Dave & Jessica Grigsby**  
**Siamak Kermanj**

RPNA's Membership Chair Andrea Schroeder and crackerjack statistician Tamis Reed deserve much credit for this growth.

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!

## To become an RPNA member!

Just send your check to: **RPNA P.O. Box 19866 Sacramento, CA 95819**

You can join RPNA using a credit card via PayPal by visiting [www.riverparksacramento.net](http://www.riverparksacramento.net)

## Dogs of River Park

### Eric and Samantha

**Schranz** live on Jerome and got Carlos a few months after moving to River Park in Dec. 2005. Carlos is a Standard Poodle (he's not a labradoodle as many people assume). Carlos is a good running partner, but he can only go 3 miles or so.



"We've given Carlos all sorts of haircuts from dreadlocks to shaving him like a leopard and a bear, but he especially likes being shaved all the way down, as his curls cause him to overheat. We've got an infant girl named Sunny, and couldn't ask for a better dog to have around her."

Take a chance! Send a quality close-up digital photo of your River Park dog to

[editor@riverparksacramento.net](mailto:editor@riverparksacramento.net)

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## Safety and beauty the goal as city trims trees

Monster machines invaded River Park in late October, all with the object of cutting back many of our neighborhood's overhanging tree branches. The city first marked the trees that were either hanging too low to the ground or impeding utility wires. Then the machines and their crews appeared. The noise and commotion were impressive for two weeks, but the results were generally hailed. This winter, when the inevitable wind storm comes, be thankful that at least some dangerous situations have been mitigated.



## American River Flood Control District Completes Boundary Survey in River Park

In February 2010, the ARFCD awarded a contract to survey and mark the flood control easement boundary along the levee in River Park. In April the district's surveyor obtained the subdivision maps and other historical information and researched boundary line descriptions. Field work to locate existing monuments in the neighborhood and on the levee began in May and concluded in early July. This process involved the cooperation of some River Park residents to provide the surveyors access to backyards. Over the course of the survey, the shared boundary line with all 150 parcels adjoining the flood control easement was surveyed and located on the new map. Metal survey monuments were placed on the property line corner points of each of these adjoining parcels in July and August. Finally, a new map was sent to the County of Sacramento Recorder's office in September and should be complete by December.

The AFRCDC said that it will be able to share the individual parcel plat maps indicating the shared property boundary line with adjacent homeowners upon completion of recording by the County of Sacramento. The District said that the plat maps will also show the surveyed location of any encroaching structures or fences.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman for a different organization - the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency - says SAFCA will begin removing the old ruined signs along the levee path between Glenn Hall Park and the I-80 bridge. These are metal signs affixed to steel posts. Once upon a time these signs displayed important information about the levee and flood control, but they have long since become useless eyesores. SAFCA says the removal will begin in February.



## Repairs underway at Glenn Hall Park

Work began in November on the long-promised physical improvements at Glenn Hall Park. Workers smashed through the brick of the swimming pool building's two public restrooms in order to create new doors that will face out toward the parking lot. The current doors face to the sides, making it easier to hide entrance and exit. A sexual assault in one of the restrooms two years ago prompted the city to make the changes.

Workers were also busy in late November pouring concrete and preparing for construction of a new entrance gate to the Glenn Hall Park parking lot. When completed, the gate will open electronically at dawn and automatically lock at dusk. Motion detector lights are also planned for the parking area, all in an attempt to prevent late night access to the lot and Paradise Beach.



Hello new doors

## Mothers' Club Active in River Park

The River Park Mothers' Club just held a very successful Auction Night with 65 moms in attendance. This was an event open to RPMC members as well as fellow moms in the community. At the November 5th auction, several of RPMC's past presidents were in attendance including Hilda Kerfoot who was the club president in 1957. As a result of successful fundraising efforts the club will be able to make a donation to the Sacramento Crisis Nursery in the amount of \$750. The club has also been collecting donations in the form of diapers, formula, baby food and cleaning supplies throughout the year to help support the Sacramento Crisis Nursery in their day to day activities. This is in addition to the \$500 donated earlier in the year to St. John's Shelter for Women and Children. The RPMC also contributed \$250 to the Glenn Hall pool fund this summer.

The Mothers' Club is committed to improving our community and helping other moms who are not as fortunate as ourselves. We are well aware that while most of us have a good support system and reliable income, motherhood can still be quite overwhelming. This makes us try to do what we can for those mothers who are dealing with all of the same difficult parenting issues as we are while coping with financial hardships and isolation.

It is simple to become a member. You just need to live within the River Park neighborhood boundaries and be a mother or an expectant mother. Our dues are \$30 per year and can be waived for financial hardship reasons. Anyone who is interested in joining should visit <https://www.bigtent.com/groups/rpmc> for more information or are welcome to call Ginger at 456-2836.



Goodbye old gate



# FALL

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## “Wizard” opens new coffee shop in River Park

Once it was Javalicious and then the Fire Café, now the owner of the Wizard’s Pond toy store is promising a higher quality, family friendly café in the River Park shopping center. Ruth Villegas took over the abandoned Fire Café next door, knocked a hole in the wall, repainted, bought new refrigerators and coffee makers, and opened for business on November 26th. Ruth expects to be open 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. seven days a week. A Grand Opening is planned for sometime in December.

Villegas says the difference between her coffee shop and the previous cafes will be quality. She envisions a mini Barnes and Nobles with sofas and love seats, free WiFi, and a Thomas the Tank Train set in the corner for the little kids. The Wizard’s Cafe will offer family discounts, student discounts, and senior discounts. Changing photo exhibits will be presented. The menu includes coffee from Vaneli’s and The Coffee Works, sandwiches, salads, ice cream and Otis Spunkmeyer cookies baked on site. There will be no alcohol.

Ruth has an extensive background that began with running a fleet of ice cream trucks in San Jose in the 1970s and moving on to successful toy shops here in Sacramento. Wizard’s Pond opened a year ago and is doing well, especially its mail order business.

Attracting dedicated customers has always been somewhat difficult in River Park because of its unusual semi-isolation. Villegas says she’ll advertise and depend on superb quality to draw repeat customers.



**Ruth Villegas**

## Elizabeth Thompson on Sandburg

was the first to find and report a typo in the most recent issue of the Review. Unfortunately there were many typos to choose from, but she was the first so she gets the reward. Elizabeth used to teach foreign students at Sac State how to speak and write the English language so she should know. Keep your eyes peeled and you could win next time.



### 620 Dittmar Way

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[bob@bobmckiernan.com](mailto:bob@bobmckiernan.com)

## River Park crime reports: September — October 2010

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

|              |            |                            |                    |
|--------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| September 1  | 1:41 p.m.  | Sandburg near Seward       | Burglary Residence |
| September 5  | 3:30 a.m.  | Dittmar Way                | Burglary Vehicle   |
| September 10 | 6:10 a.m.  | Caleb near Sandburg (east) | Burglary Residence |
| September 11 | 11:30 p.m. | Minerva and Camellia       | Larceny Theft      |
| September 14 | 8:45 p.m.  | Ruth Court                 | Burglary Residence |
| September 17 | 4:30 p.m.  | Glenn Hall Park/Carlson    | Burglary Vehicle   |
| September 29 | 9:00 p.m.  | Moddison near Erlewine     | Burglary Vehicle   |
| September 30 | 9:00 p.m.  | Moddison near Carlson      | Vandalism          |
| October 2    | 11:00 a.m. | Scottish Rite Temple area  | Larceny Theft      |
| October 10   | 1:00 a.m.  | Camellia near Sandburg     | Larceny Theft      |
| October 14   | 5:00 a.m.  | Shepard near Sandburg      | Larceny Theft      |
| October 27   | 1:30 p.m.  | Scottish Rite Temple area  | Larceny Theft      |

I'm just home from soccer practice at Glenn Hall. Today a purse was stolen in broad daylight, while many adults were nearby. A mom left her purse in her car parked next to the area where practice was being held. Her car window was broken, and people were close enough to hear the window shatter. Two young men in an old Honda were seen minutes before and immediately after leaving the scene. The incident has been reported, and better descriptions given to the police. It's a shocking reminder that we can't leave our valuables in our vehicles at any time. Susan on State Avenue 10/19

Nov. 27 - A hit and run occurred about 8 p.m. on Messina at Callister. The culprit drove a black SUV with a Mel Rapton Honda license plate cover. After pushing a parked car off Messina and into a fence the car sped off turning right on Camellia heading toward the school. The SUV should have severe front end damage and is missing its front bumper. The victim's car is pretty much totaled. She had the car only three weeks, but thankfully no injuries. Keep your eyes peeled. **Note:** the driver of the black SUV returned to River Park on Nov. 29, contacted the owner of the damaged car, and is seeking to resolve the matter.

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# In Brief:

- The Caleb Greenwood PTSO meets on the first Tuesday of every month (may be an exception if school is on holiday) at 7 p.m. in the Caleb library. You may become a member by filling out a registration form (available at the meeting or in the school office) and submitting it with a donation of any size *in lieu* of a formal membership fee.
- Flapjack 5k and Short Stack – Saturday morning December 11th. There will be brief road closures in the neighborhood.
- Rumor has it that several “drug houses” are in operation in River Park. Be discreet, but if you see what appears to be illegal activity, call the police at **264-5471**.
- An off-leash dog administered a nasty bite to a River Park resident on the levee on November 14. Remember dogs must always be on leashes. It’s the law.

- Dan Buckley has lived in River Park for 56 years and remembers the pharmacy and little post office that once existed in the River Park shopping center. The big Pantry grocery store and the Union 76 gas station also came and went. Just about every business in the center has struggled to attract River Park residents as customers.
- The River Park Garden Club holds its Holiday Luncheon at Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday December 12. This is a catered event costing \$12. There will be turkey, trimmings and musical entertainment. Contact Ron at [rjmccormack@hotmail.com](mailto:rjmccormack@hotmail.com).
- At 6:30 p.m. on February 10, 2011 at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Dr. Norman Klein will speak at the meeting of the River Park Garden Club. Dr. Klein will present a slide show of his cactus collecting trips to Baja California.
- Two of the three outdoor drinking fountains in Glenn Hall Park are now inoperative. The one near the baseball diamond stopped working in November. The one in the children’s playground also doesn't work. The only place to get a drink of water now is from the fountain next to the tennis court entrance. Hopefully the city will fix this soon.




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cell number: 1-(916)-804-3582

### 2010-2011 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](mailto: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   |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|
| Steve Harriman       | RPNA President             | 716-2765 | <a href="mailto:president@riverparksacramento.net">president@riverparksacramento.net</a>   |
| Billy & Eve Martinez | Block Captain Coordinators | 457-7725 | <a href="mailto:rvrpk3@surewest.net">rvrpk3@surewest.net</a>                               |
| Andrea Schroeder     | RPNA Membership            | 454-4200 | <a href="mailto:membership@riverparksacramento.net">membership@riverparksacramento.net</a> |
| Jeff Harris          | Night Patrol Coordinator   | 455-0996 | <a href="mailto:cadence@surewest.net">cadence@surewest.net</a>                             |
| Mike Montgomery      | Newsletter Editor          | 457-2933 | <a href="mailto:editor@riverparksacramento.net">editor@riverparksacramento.net</a>         |

To submit an article to the River Park Review, please email information to [editor@riverparksacramento.net](mailto: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!**