

RIVER PARK REVIEW

It's a great place to live!

riverparksacramento.net

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CSUS Master Plan Update

by Todd Damiano



CSUS will soon begin a massive makeover that includes new construction, renovations and upgrades to existing buildings, as well as redesigning specific areas to be used for group events. This reflects an effort to remain competitive with neighboring universities.

On February 10th, an audience of roughly 50 city representatives and community leaders were treated to a powerpoint presentation at CSUS which detailed a variety of construction projects that span the next 15-20 years.

The campus-wide project is broad

(continued on page 2)

IB Program at Kit Carson

by Todd Damiano

Caleb Greenwood Elementary is well underway to becoming an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) school. What you may not know is that Caleb students will be able to continue their IB education at Kit Carson Middle School in East Sacramento. In 2012 the design teams at Kit Carson & Caleb Greenwood each chose the IB program for their schools. The school year began with each facility entering their candidacy phase; meaning they have two years to train teachers, develop new teaching units, and raise their teaching curriculum to a level that meets IB standards when representatives from the IB program visit the campuses to make their evaluations. At that point it will be decided whether or not each school receives the IB world school authorization.

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events...

Monthly RPNA Meetings Third Thursdays

Thursdays, April 17, May 15
Caleb Greenwood Cafeteria
Block captains meet at 7:00 p.m.
RPNA Board meets at 7:30 p.m.
All residents are welcome.

Glenn Hall Park Workday

Date: June 21st
9:00 a.m. - Noon
Bring HAT & gloves.
Tools and refreshments will be provided.
Contact: Jeff Harris:
455-0996
cadence@surewest.net

RPNA Spring General Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 26th
10:00 a.m. - Noon
Caleb Greenwood Cafeteria
Contact: Todd Damiano
402-4641 president@riverparksacramento.net
Residents are strongly encouraged to attend!

CALL FOR BLOCK CAPTAINS!

Block Captains serve as liason between their immediate neighbors and RPNA, and deliver the River Park Review
Contact: Serge Stanich
320-0708
sergestanich@gmail.com

RPNA OFFICERS & BOARD

Todd Damiano

President/Newsletter Editor

402-4641

president@

riverparksacramento.net

Serge Stanich

VP/Block Captain Coordinator

320-0708

sergestanich@gmail.com

Michael Shaw

Secretary

michaelsaw76@gmail.com

Barbara Debert

Treasurer

456-2243

barbara.debert@yahoo.com

Jeff Harris

Neighborhood Watch

Coordinator/Newsletter Editor

455-0996

cadence@surewest.net

Tamis Reed

RPNA Membership Director

804-5168

membership@

riverparksacramento.net

Janet Mason

Graphic Design/Newsletter

Advertising Manager

736-1132

ibd@surewest.net

Members at Large

Nick Cline

Rob Lechner

Doug Leslie

Eric Levinson

Phil Pluckebaum

Eric Schranz

Kim Teague

The River Park Review is published 6 times per year and is available to its members at no charge.

IN BRIEF...

Apartments

With financing secured, it is expected that construction of the new apartment complex at Messina and Carlson will begin as soon as next month.

New Sign at Caleb Greenwood

If you haven't noticed Caleb Greenwood has a new digital marquee. Measures Q & R supplied resources to each school in the Sac Unified School District. Each school chose what upgrade was most needed, Caleb chose a new digital sign. The new digital marquee at Caleb Greenwood is up and running. Kit Carson also has a new sign and should be working within the very soon.

Ciavarella News

Earlier this year a concrete slab was poured near the batting cage at Civarella Field. Unfortunately a group of kids, from outside the neighborhood, vandalized it before it completely cured. Efforts to repair the damage are nearly complete, only one small section remains to be refinished.

McKinley Village

The McKinley Village project was discussed Thursday March 27th at the Planning and Design Commission. After a presentation by the developer, and two hours of public comment pro and con, the project entitlements were approved unanimously by the commission. The proposal will now go to City Council for final approval.

CSUS

(continued from page 1)

in scope, and addresses a number of long-term issues facing the university. Sac State sees increasing student enrollment in the coming years, and two of their key concerns are traffic and parking. The university recognizes that it cannot continue to support automobiles as the principal mode of transport for their students, most of who arrive as a single occupant. Increasing on-campus parking is expensive, and a long-term liability on many levels. To ease traffic flow, the plan calls for expanding campus access through the southern entrance, near Folsom Blvd. and HWY 50. This will require major reworking of roads and sidewalks along that corridor. River Park residents may actually see reduced traffic flow into Sac State from the J Street entrance. The presentation also emphasized that students who live on campus are more immersed in their studies and place a higher value on their education. They are also more engaged in their community and enjoy a better living experience. The university plans to double their on-campus housing over the next 10 years.

The next step of the master plan is to determine the phasing and implementation of the various projects. While "priority" projects were not identified, the construction of a new science building and new student housing are expected to be at the top of the list. Beyond that, the availability of funding will determine the rate at which these individual projects are completed. The primary source of funding will come from student fees, however other avenues of funding are being pursued. ■

Caleb Greenwood, whose PYP (Primary Years Program) path is fairly straight forward, has opted to accomplish this task in one year. Next spring representatives from the IB program will visit the school to make their evaluations. For Kit Carson the road to IB authorization is a bit more complex. While Kit Carson is aiming to be authorized as an MYP (Middle Years Program) School, the changes won't end there. Back in 2011, to address the need for an additional local high school in the East Sac area, the Sac City Unified School District granted Kit Carson the ability to expand and eventually become a high school. That means they will add a ninth grade level in 2015, followed by grades 10 through 12 in the following years.

It is no coincidence that the IB program was granted to both Kit and Caleb. For the past 15 years, SCUSD enrollment has slowly declined. The district took advantage of an opportunity to provide a much needed additional high school, while also offering the highly respected IB program to serve as an alternative to the established and well performing neighboring schools, Phoebe Hearst Elementary and Sutter Middle School.

The greatest hurdle that Kit Carson must overcome is it's own reputation. For a number of years, Kit Carson has struggled to compete with Sutter Middle School. Its current enrollment is roughly one third that of Sutter. During this period, Sutter became the destination for students whose parents sought out a solid, safe, and well rounded education for their kids.

Rather than relying on statistics and old reputations, I wanted to learn first hand what was taking place at Kit Carson, so I dropped in for a visit.

On Wednesdays at 9 AM, guided tours are offered to interested parents - no appointment needed. I met with Principal Charlie Waters (the MYP Coordinator) and Santiago Chapas. We toured the campus as they described the changes taking place. From the street, the campus appears



much like any other school, but that is deceiving. The building interiors feature open beams and high ceilings, creating warm and welcoming spaces. As we visited classrooms, I learned about everything from expanding music programs, to in-class laptops, to multiple campus upgrades. With the expansion into high school, the existing portables will be removed to make room for permanent classrooms. It is expected that two-thirds of the student body will be middle school students, and one-third will be high school. Right now lunches are free to all students, including a daily barbecue. Also

free, with limited space, is daycare, before and after school. There is an on-site student counselor. Each year the 8th graders travel to Southern California where they tour several major college campuses. The 7th graders travel to Washington DC. With a current enrollment of 350, students and teachers share a close bond, making the learning experience that much more personal. Sports are available to those who are interested, and again, being a smaller school ensures that nearly all interested participants get a spot on the team. With all of this it's difficult to ignore the buzz this school is creating.

As the excitement spreads about what is unfolding at Kit Carson, interest and enrollment is certain to increase. Principal Waters will tell you, "If you want in, we'll find a way to make it happen". A SCUSD committee is currently reestablishing the boundaries into which Kit Carson's service area will extend. Highest priority will be given to it's own local neighborhood, then open enrollment, and lastly available space. It is fairly safe to assume that IB students from Caleb will receive special consideration, if for some reason the new boundaries do not include River Park.

The changes taking place at Kit Carson will greatly enhance the learning experience of its students, many of who will come from Caleb Greenwood. Kit Carson has work to do, but it's clear they are on the right track.

<http://kitcarson.scusd.edu/> ■

Enjoy The Rain, But Keep Conserving Water!

by Jeff Harris

April's snow survey is under way, and it will tell us just how much water is being stored in California's Sierra snowpack, dubbed the "frozen reservoir". A third of California's water supply comes from this blanket of snow.

The manual snowpack measurement is typically performed in early April, the time when the snowpack is historically at its peak. It is carried out by skiers that drive tubes into the snow along Echo Summit, then weigh the samples to determine water content. Information from this survey, measurements from electronic sensors and rain gauges, and stream flow data enable officials from the State Department of Water Resources create a computer model of predicted runoff. That in turn determines how much water will be released from state reservoirs for urban and agricultural use.

Improving technology is providing some alternatives to the laborious snowpack-measuring trek. The state has 99 new electronic

snow stations incorporating collection plates that can be monitored from a distance. But the most recent readings, 7.1 inches of water, comprise only one quarter of a "normal" season. These electronic findings were mirrored by data taken from rain gauges. The average March rainfall at eight stations was only half of the usual average for the season.

The results from this year's snowpack survey will be watched very closely as the state faces its third year of drought. Recent rains have been more than welcome, and every drop helps, but the drought is not anywhere near over, said Department of Water Resources director Mark Cowin.

"We welcome the late storms, but they are not enough to end the drought," said Cowin. "This drought is a wake-up call that we all have to take water conservation seriously and make it a way of life."

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Become A Reading Partner!

Did you know only 40% of 3rd graders in California are reading at grade level and those students who are not reading proficiently at the end of 3rd grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school?

Can you share one hour each week with an elementary school student who is struggling to read? Become a Reading Partner!

Reading Partners is a nonprofit organization that recruits and trains community volunteers to provide one-on-one literacy tutoring to students who are struggling with reading. Tutors deliver a highly effective, research validated curriculum and are supported by program staff who are onsite at all times.

Devoting just one hour each week to a student can make a tremendous impact.



Last year, 92% of Reading Partners' Sacramento students improved their rate of learning in reading and 75% narrowed their achievement gap. This year, Reading Partners Sacramento is partnering with 11 elementary schools to unlock opportunities for over 500 students living in economically

disadvantaged communities. The organization is seeking volunteer tutors Monday through Thursday, between 9am and 5pm.

To sign up to be a Reading Partner, visit www.readingpartners.org/sacramento/about. If you have any questions, please call (916) 996-0830 or email

Rachael Valler, Volunteer Coordinator at volunteersac@readingpartners.org

Be a Hero! Volunteer as a Reading Partner today!

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RPNA Thanks our Members by Tamis Reed

RPNA sends sincere thanks to everyone who joined, renewed or extended their RPNA membership during our annual membership drive. We are truly appreciative of your generous support. We are pleased to announce that RPNA's membership is strong with 520 members. Our membership drive brought memberships from over 138 households in River Park, as well as many generous donations to RPNA.

RPNA also warmly welcomes the following new members -- thank you and welcome aboard!

Roxann Diller

Joshua Estrella

Bill & Susan Maile

Gianna, Janette & Joseph Palermo

Eric & Melanie Schindell

If you would like to see if your RPNA membership needs to be renewed, please contact Tamis Reed, RPNA Membership Database Manager, at 804-5168 or membership@riverparksacramento.net. We will be delivering Membership Renewal requests in the next month – we encourage our neighbors to please join RPNA today: membership dues are \$10.00 for one year, \$18.00 for two years, and \$25.00 for three years. Membership dues may be mailed to: RPNA, P.O. Box 19866, Sacramento, CA 95819. You help to make all that we do possible. Thank you for your support.

Advertise in the Review

The River Park Review is published by the RPNA, which is responsible for its content. RPNA reserves the right to edit and/or reject submissions.

ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE

Business Card:	\$50	2" h x 3.5" w
Quarter Page:	\$75	5" h x 3.75" w
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Insert:	\$205	11" h x 8.5" w
Insert:	\$255	non standard size

For advertising, contact Janet Mason at 736-1132 or ibd@surewest.net, for article submissions, contact Jeff Harris at 455-0996 or cadence@surewest.net or Todd Damiano at 402-4641 or toddDamiano@surewest.net

Shop The Grid!

by Emily Kapic

Caleb Greenwood Elementary is excited to introduce the Cougar Grid, included in this copy of the River Park Review.

Each business listed on the Cougar Grid donated cash or an in-kind gift to the school. These donations help fund the IB curriculum that prepares students for success in an ever-changing global society by challenging them to think critically, ask questions, be creative and collaborate with others. In addition, Caleb students receive instruction in art, Spanish and music making the IB program truly unique in Sacramento.

We're thrilled that the successful Cougar Grid launch generated \$8,800! Thank you to all of our partners who value the exciting things happening at Caleb Greenwood.

We hope that the River Park community will also contribute to the school by using the Cougar Grid as a shopping guide. If you're looking for a contractor, a veterinarian, a real estate agent, health services or children's activities, etc., please consider using the businesses on the Cougar Grid and let them know you appreciate their support of Caleb Greenwood.

Thanks for your commitment to our community and let's SHOP THE COUGAR GRID!

Emily Kapic
Cougar Grid Coordinator
emilykapic@yahoo.com

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Caleb Corner

by Todd Damiano

April

April 4th - Mother/Son Bingo in school multipurpose room 6-8 p.m.

April 25th - Family Movie Night- Sponsored by the Caleb Student Leadership Team

May

May 2nd - Daughter's Dance in school multipurpose room 6-9 p.m.

May 5th-9th - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 17th - Caleb Clean-Up Day

May 30th - Student Talent Show 6-7 p.m.

Caleb's PTSO (Parent Teacher Student Organization) meets every month on the first Tuesday in the Cafeteria at 7:00 pm. Please join us and hear about all the great things going on at Caleb and our upcoming events for the year.

Caleb Greenwood Elementary IB K-6 School



www.riverparksacramento.net

by Todd Damiano

For years River Park has had it's own website, riverparksacramento.net, and for more than a few of those years, it has remained stagnant and largely unvisited. The problem: much of the information was dated and therefore useless to visitors. Adding to the problem was the fact that the website architecture itself was dated, and therefore required the services of a bonafide IT person to make even the smallest of changes.

Last year RPNA began to explore the available options to revive its website. Using an IT person to make updates simply wasn't cost effective, so the search turned to creating something new. What was found was an online service that provided someone, with even the most basic computer skills, the tools to build their own website. Making updates and maintaining the site should require little effort as well.

At last the NEW website is up and running. There are bound to be a few technical glitches, but those will be resolved as the transition moves forward. Because River Park has a number of other websites which serve the community, this one, for the most part, serves people outside of River Park. It provides general details about our neighborhood to those who are interested. However, River Park residents will also find some information and features that benefit the community.

A new feature on the new website is a neighborhood calendar. It will provide times and locations of community events, RPNA & PTSO meetings, and anything open to the community hosted within River Park.

Take a moment and check out the new website, hopefully it captures what makes River Park such a great place to live.

www.riverparksacramento.net

Join River Park Computer Networks Now!

The best way to stay informed and up to date about what's happening in River Park is by using the neighborhood computer "listservs" and websites. Lost a dog? See something suspicious? Got something to sell? These interactive computer networks are already used by hundreds of River Park residents.

River Park Blog Yahoo Group—just send an email to the moderator at:

riverparkblog-subscribe@yahoogroups.com – or at –
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/riverparkblog/ then,
"Join this group!"

RP Listserv—send an email to: **rplistadministrator@gmail.com**, the administrator, Jeff Cherye, will then allow you access.

River Park is also listed on **nextdoor.com** and **Facebook.com**

The RPNA board has determined that instructions on how to join the two River Park computer networks be printed in each issue of the River Park Review.

River Park Soccer Club 2014 Registration Deadlines (online)

by Ed Stimac

The River Park Soccer Club is looking forward to the 2014 season. If your son or daughter would like to play youth soccer, there is a wonderful opportunity right here in this neighborhood at Caleb Greenwood School or Glenn Hall Park.

We will always welcome more volunteers that are willing to make a contribution. However, I am very pleased to share with you that a number of new volunteers have stepped up to continue River Park's great legacy of youth soccer. These new volunteers include the following:

- Registrar: team of Elisha Grow, Stacey Wigglesworth, Heather Yetter
- Treasurer: Kristen Tudor
- Head Coach: Ryan Wagner
- Uniforms: Gretchen White
- Picture Day: Monica Shapiro
- Caleb Greenwood Field Manager: Mary Jane Coombs

I would be remiss in making these announcements if I did not mention the previous help of Phil Pasqua (Treasurer), Alison Tubo-French (Registrar), Mandi Sittarich (Uniforms

and Picture Day), and Ivan Villalobos (Referees). They have been tireless volunteers and if your son or daughter played soccer in River Park in 2013 it would not have been possible without them.

If you have any questions and you can't find the answers on the website please contact Ed Stimac at manager@riverparksoccer.org.

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 15th thru May 31st: open registration

June 1st will start waitlist

June 1st – July 31st team formation

August 1st start practice

www.riverparksoccer.org



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Park Pets



This is Boswell the great! He is dreaming about what it might be like outside in our front yard tree. Our cockatiel is 4 years old and is very loving and sweet, (as long as he is getting his 10 hours of sleep)

most of the time. He says, "I love you, hi sweetheart , and hi Boswell". He whistles his own version of "Summertime" and "If You're Happy and You Know it Clap Your Hands". He has the run of the house which at times can be fun for all of us especially when he is on top of our ceiling fan blades hiding out. . . He likes to go round and round on the slow speed.

Send a quality close-up digital photo of your River Park pet with their bio to:
ibd@surewest.net



Garden Club News

River Park Garden Club Welcomes You!

The River Park Garden club started in 1951, and has 95 members from 60 households. If you love gardening, JOIN US! Its only \$10.00/year, and you'll get a newsletter and access to five potluck-lectures annually, covering diverse gardening and agricultural subjects. Plus a Christmas social at the end of the year! Contact Mary Lou Tucker at 457-9702 for membership information, or go to the website:

www.riverparkgardenclub.yolasite.com

Fremont Presbyterian, Ferguson Hall

April 10 6:30 pm—Potluck and Guest Speaker: Anita Clevenger
Sacramento Historic Rose Garden
"Cemetery Roses"

Shepard Garden & Arts Center

April 12-13 Bonsai Show
10 am - 4 pm
April 26-27 Rose Show
Sat 1-5 pm
Sun 10 am - 4 pm



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Letters to the Editors...

If you'd like to contribute, contact:

Jeff Harris: 455-0996

cadence@surewest.net

— or —

Todd Damiano: 402-4641

toddamiano@surewest.net

Please put "letter to the editor" in the subject line of your email for identification purposes.

Parks Update

by Jeff Harris



The demonstration solar project at Sutter's Landing Regional Park is now under construction. The array will consist of about 3.5 acres of ground-mounted panels, a few elevated panels that will provide some shade in the dog park, and a larger array shading much of the parking lot near

the bocce courts. Electricity production will be 1.5 megawatts (enough power for 240 homes). This is being built largely with grant funding, and will generate about \$15,000.00 annually in revenue for Sutter's Landing Park.

The parks component of the proposed McKinley Village project will come to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and comment on April 3rd. We will be looking at

acreage, layout, and design aspects.

Our Glenn Hall Volunteer Workday on March 15th was very productive and fun. The volunteers were all local folks- RPNA and Garden Club members. Special thanks to Barbara Bravos, who resides in East Sac. She has come to almost all of our workdays. Why? Because "she is a regular user of the park" and just wants to pitch in. We are into our 4th year of maintenance at Glenn Hall Park, and we are doing a



great job! The trees we planted last year have grown about two feet, and the redwoods that

volunteers planted at the west end of the pool are reaching 12' high.

Our next workday will be June 21st. See you there—
Jeff Harris, PRC District 3



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River Park Patrol to Continue

by Jeff Harris

A recent series of burglaries that have occurred along our stretch of levee has the Sacramento Police Department focused on the River Park neighborhood. There has been a greater police presence locally to try to curtail escalating illegal activity. It is quite important that all suspicious activity be reported the police at 264-5471. When calling the non-emergency line, it is important to be prepared with the information police need- descriptions of people and vehicles. License plate numbers are a huge help, and pictures are even better.

The police welcome the help of neighborhood watch groups, and over the years the RP neighborhood watch has



been particularly effective. They have suggested that a levee patrol could be a very helpful crime prevention measure.

We are asking for volunteers to walk in pairs or groups along the levee from 5:00pm till dusk. Volunteers will receive a brief orientation on how to observe and report pertinent information to the police. We have bright "River Park Patrol" mesh vests to wear to make a visual impression, and will sell the current supply for \$5.00 each. To sign up, please contact:

Serge Stanich- sergestanich@gmail.com

Jeff Harris – cadence@surewest.net

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Date	Time	Block Location	Activity
1/7/14	4:01 pm	5800 Spilman	Burglary Residence Force
1/11/14	7:00 pm	5300 Hale Ct.	Burglary Residence
1/21/14	12:00 pm	5600 Seward Ct.	Burglary Residence No Force
2/2/14	11:00 pm	5200 Minerva	Vehicle Burglary
2/3/14	8:20 am	100 Sandburg Dr.	Burglary Residence Force
2/5/14	4:00 pm	5300 Hale Ct.	Burglary Residence
2/12/14	6:00 am	5400 Moddison	PC Grand Theft/Vehicle taken w/o owner
2/15/14	9:41 pm	5600 Balboa Cir.	Burglary Residence Force
2/18/14	9:30 pm	5600 McAdoo	Vehicle taken w/o owner
2/26/14	7:25 am	4000 Breuner	PC Grand Theft
3/5/14	9:20 pm	3700 Erlewine	Burglary Residence Force
3/6/14	9:08 pm	100 Sandburg Dr.	Burglary Residence Force
3/12/14	8:42 pm	5300 Hale Ct.	Burglary Residence
3/12/14	8:40 am	5200 Minerva	Burglary Residence Force

Source: <http://www.raidsonline.com>

River Park Neighborhood Watch Report:

by Serge Stanich

Burglaries on rise along levee homes near Glenn Hall Park



As reported in the last issue of the River Park Review, there has been an increase in burglaries in River Park, particularly targeting homes along the levee near Glenn Hall Park. Homes on Hale Court and Seward Court were burglarized

in January and Hale Court has been burglarized again twice since. Based on discussions from the victims and from police reports, it appears that the crimes are being perpetrated by a small professional team of individuals who are casing and/or accessing homes at dusk from the backyards along the levee. The perpetrators are also turning off power at the circuit breaker box and breaking glass to enter the home. A look-out car may also be present nearby to alert the perpetrators inside if the homeowners or law enforcement arrive on the scene. On the most recent incident on Hale Court, notification of law enforcement of suspicious activity from neighbors fortunately resulted in the interruption of the crime in progress.

Many people have asked me, what is suspicious behavior? When should I call the police? When is it appropriate to call and when am I just being

a nosy neighbor who should mind my own business? The answer is simple, but it requires the witness to be active and engaged, not passive and dismissive. If you witness any activity that truly seems odd or where the perpetrators seem to be elusive, you should call the Sacramento Police Department's non-emergency number at (916) 264-5471. Such behavior includes darkly clad individuals moving elusively, moving furniture at odd-hours, the sound of something breaking and no exclamation of surprise or anger following, or the sounds of dogs barking or howling frantically. You don't need to interrupt the action but do pay attention. If possible get a description of the individual and, if it seems odd, call the police. Also, while an individual wearing a hooded sweatshirt is not in-itself suspicious, wearing all dark clothing including a hooded sweatshirt with the appearance of being elusive or avoiding contact is suspicious. Residents of River Park have interrupted burglaries in progress by individuals so dressed and it is rare that burglars wear neon or reflective clothing. Again, if it seems suspicious you should call the police. If you believe you are witness to a crime in progress, call 911 or better still, call the cell phone emergency number (916) 264-5151.

For more information on how to support the Neighborhood Watch please contact Jeff Harris at cadence@surewest.net or Serge Stanich at sergestanich@gmail.com.