



River Park Review

Vol. 8, No. 7

www.riverparksacramento.net

Speed bumps ahead? Slower traffic on Moddison the goal

Humps, bumps, strips or tables. The object is the same: reduce dangerous speeding on the southeast leg of Moddison Ave. as it approaches Carlson Drive. Speed bumps for Moddison were vetoed three years ago during the last attempt at traffic calming. But it's back before the Sacramento city council with a vote expected there as early as September.

White outlines of five speed bumps have already been marked onto Moddison's pavement between Sandburg and



Hump

Carlson. Ninety-six households along that strip of Moddison were polled by mail by the city, with 22 responding in favor of speed bumps and 10 against. But several residents of Breuner Ave. and the portion of Moddison beyond Sandburg are crying foul. They believe they should also have been polled, and they claim to have petitions signed by 150 residents opposing speed bumps. In a rare split decision at its July 17th meeting, the RPNA board voted 6 to 5 not to inquire from the city about the methodology of

the poll or the possibility of a new survey. Concerns, however, continue to be raised on the two River Park computer listserves. One issue is bus service. Will speed bumps cause RT to cancel or modify the bus lines that connect River Park with Sac State, downtown, and points east? What about ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars? It is 1.3 miles from Ciavarella Field at the far end of Moddison to the intersection of Moddison and Carlson. The current speed limit on Moddison is 25 mph. Depending on speed, the trip from Ciavarella to Carlson takes from 2.5 to 3.5 minutes. Speed bumps would likely add about 45 seconds to those times. Bumps, humps, and traffic tables vary in height, but each generally slow traffic.

There was clearly a consensus on the RPNA board that there is too much dangerous speeding on Moddison. A majority of the board also felt that additional polling of residents would slow or stop needed action. Stay tuned.



Bump



Speed table

New paint, new principal Back to School at Caleb Greenwood

Christine Plumb-Hanifen's first full school year as principal of Caleb Greenwood K-8 school begins this month in a building just repainted (heather with denim trim). Hanifen is no stranger to Caleb having taught here since

1995. But now she's in charge of everything—the teachers, character education courses, twice weekly psychologist visits, the sprinkler timer, everything. She's ready with good backing from staff, teachers and resurgent



call Mrs. Hanifen at 277-6266

involvement from River Park parent volunteers. Hanifen says a majority of the 560 kids at Caleb are River Park residents, although she herself lives in Citrus Heights. She says she's especially proud of the school's four special ed classes that focus on communicatively handicapped kids.

After a short summer, Christine Hanifen goes back to work August 5 with several weeks of boot camp for principals. Teachers come back August 28 and it's back to school for students September 2nd.

River Park residents have several ways to help enrich Caleb Greenwood. Email Mrs. Hanifen at christine-plumb-hanifen@sac-city.k12.ca.us Or call the school at 277-6266. Get involved with the Parent Teacher Student Organization by contacting Stephanie Riley stephanieriley@sbcglobal.net Caleb Greenwood K-8 School also has a website: <http://schools.scusd.edu/calebgreenwood/newsite/index.asp>

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS August 2008... and beyond

Sunday August 10
Blood drive 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Bloodmobile
 5458 Carlson Drive
 Give your blood!
 It's needed

Saturday August 23
Screen on the Green
Breakfast at Tiffany's
 Glen Hall Park
 Movie starts at dark
 It's Free!

Saturday September 20
Great American River
Cleanup
 8 a.m. to noon
 Glen Hall Park
 Walk around and pick stuff up
 Get a tee shirt

Saturday September 27
River Park Fall Picnic
 4 p.m. - ???
 Glen Hall Park
 live music
 food and drinks for sale
 Family Fun!!

Night patrol out in force

River Park's anticrime Night Patrol is now out in force Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. In two hour shifts River Park volunteers drive slowly through the streets armed with a cell phone, a large flashlight, and detective eyes. The volunteers call Sacramento police at the beginning of each shift just to let them know they're on the prowl. So far the night patrol has rung a few doorbells to remind residents to close their garage doors and has taken other minor actions. Whether the patrols discourage criminal acts that might otherwise occur is not knowable. Volunteers are still needed. Just call Jeff Harris at **455-0996** or email him at cadence@surewest.net. Look for a Sacramento Bee article on the River Park Night Patrol in mid-August.

Meanwhile Sacramento County Regional Parks has a new daytime dispatch number for problems at or on the American River Parkway including Paradise Beach. Just call **875-PARK (875-7275)**. After hours call 911 or County Central Dispatch **875-5000**.

Crime anecdotes so far this summer include purse snatching attempts, tires squealing near the park, a \$500 fireworks assortment stolen from the Sac State Marching band which was operating the stand at the shopping center, persons walking calmly house to house in the predawn rummaging through cars with unlocked doors, suspicious persons cruising the neighborhood in a car with no engine hood, and kids and dogs swimming in the Glen Hall pool after hours.

See page 3 for the June list of reported crimes.

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Hot dogs run out

River Park celebrates 4th of July 2008

River Park celebrated Independence Day in fine style. It was a perfect morning. Light breeze, pleasant temp, no smoke in the air. The RUN ran well. The Kid parade was very pleasant, with dozens of red, white, and blue participants and as many onlookers along Carlson Drive. In Glen Hall Park volunteers sold tickets for hot dogs, drinks, kid games and the bounce house. The Mere Mortals Band tuned up before delivering a very satisfying 90 minute set of rock oldies.



But across the street trouble was brewing. On the front lawn of Dan and Emily Kopic's house five hundred hot dogs were being grilled, a quantity soon determined to be insufficient for the demand. 600 dogs next year is the consensus. But the music, the weather, and the wholesome ambience made it a morning to remember. Community volunteers made this event work beautifully.

Seven hours later the fireworks began in earnest. As usual, hundreds of vehicles from outside our neighborhood parked where they shouldn't so their occupants could climb the levee to view the Cal Expo blasts. But it was still a fine, if noisy end to America's great patriotic holiday.



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June 2008 River Park crime reports:

June 1	12:05 a.m.	Larceny Theft	Caleb / Sandburg-west
June 1	2:00 a.m.	Larceny Theft	Sandburg / Monalee
June 1	3:15 p.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Scottish Rite lot
June 6	2:05 p.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Greenwood school lot
June 6	9:54 p.m.	Assault-Misdemeanor	Sandburg / Moddison-west
June 10	2:00 p.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Glen Hall lot
June 11	1:00 p.m.	Larceny Theft	Greenwood school lot
June 14	2:20 a.m.	Vandalism	Sandburg / Shepard
June 16	2:55 a.m.	Larceny Theft	State / Sandburg-west
June 17	11:00 p.m.	Burglary-Residence	Spilman / Ada Way
June 18	6:00 p.m.	Larceny Theft	Callister Ave.
June 19	9:45 a.m.	Auto Theft	Teichert Ave.
June 22	2:00 a.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Erlewine Circle
June 22	5:30 a.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Adventist church lot
June 24	9:37 p.m.	Assault-Felony	Moddison / Ruth Court
June 25	1:00 a.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Roger / Spilman
June 27	6:15 p.m.	Burglary-Vehicle	Scottish Rite lot
June 29	7:00 p.m.	Auto Theft	Shopping mall lot

Community garden progress

River Park community garden activist Rachel Craig reports on the RPNA board's discussion of building a community garden in River Park. Master gardener Bill Maynard addressed the board on July 17th.

Bill Maynard is the city of Sacramento's Community Garden Coordinator. He downplayed worries about tidiness and curb appeal, stating that as a rule, city community gardens are landscaped beautifully and well-planned with foundation plantings at edges, mulching and hardscape elements. Maynard said vandalism is usually not a concern since adding beauty and interest to a lot attracts neighbors, visitors, and workers for planting, weeding, strolling and admiring. The influx of well-intentioned foot traffic deters vandals, who seem to pop in only here and there for a watermelon or two. The city's community garden at 14th and Q Street will be open to the public on National Night Out, August 5th, at 7:30 pm. Come take a look and get inspired!

Much of the RPNA board's discussion centered on practical matters, such as lot procurement. Frank Cirill and the other board members agreed that the absentee lady who owns the lot on Carlson near Moddison is unlikely to change her commitment to using the lot as a weed nursery. So the focus now is on the old Unocal lot on Carlson, located next to the shopping center. Both Cirill and Maynard confirmed that this lot, which is large, well-situated, and treeless, has been cleared of all toxic contaminants. Perhaps a combination of donations, fundraising, and grants could be used to purchase the lot, which a few years ago was reportedly on sale for \$80,000.

I was pleased and gratified that this project was seriously discussed and explored with experts. For maximum enjoyment and use, I think it is important to initiate this project with the idea firmly in mind that it will be a beautiful, educational, permanent, well-organized structure that is owned, used and maintained by the community. This sentiment was echoed by community members at our meeting. I hope the rest of River Park will continue their support with calls, emails, and donations to RPNA to support this valuable project. Contact Rachel Craig at rachel_craig@sbcglobal.net or 452-8032. Contact Frank Cirill at 455-2880.

Pole problems

In June, PG&E first installed, then in July removed, a 30-foot concrete pole from in front of a house on the 5700 block of Caleb Way. PG&E said the pole was needed to elevate a solar powered gas meter reading device. It would read your gas meter by remote control. A few angry phone calls brought a quick tear down.

The city of Sacramento is floating a plan to allow T-Mobile to build a cell phone tower in Glen Hall Park. The tower would either stand naked next to the swimming pool or be camouflaged as a pine tree elsewhere in the park. There is opposition and the RPNA board decided July 17th to send a letter to City Councilman Steve Cohn's office requesting more information and that RPNA be included in the decision making process.

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Perry not a Pie Man River Park realtor icon Perry Georgallis was mistakenly assigned departed pie maker Michael Bennett's phone number in the last edition of the Review. Perry enjoyed the calls and wins the hypo-typo finder prize. For the record, call Perry at **455-0939**. Bennett's Bakery has left River Park. Its number is **481-3349**.



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