



RIVER PARK REVIEW

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Vol. 19 No. 4

August 2019

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2019 RPNA General Election -- Call for Candidates by Tony Mader

Are you interested in helping make River Park a great place to live? Do you have ideas for things that could be done to improve the community? Well, the River Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA) could use your help! Every fall, the RPNA holds an election of board members, and this year five seats are open. Successful candidates will serve two-year terms beginning on January 1, 2020.

The following board members have completed their two-year terms: Doug Leslie, Alison Lindelien, Shelley Hescocock, Justin Wisely, and Kim Teague. We appreciate the time and service they have put into the neighborhood. While any of them may decide to run for

election again, we also need new people to serve on the board! New ideas and enthusiasm help keep the board moving forward to help create an even better community.

The RPNA provides a variety of services to the neighborhood and helps to connect River Park to larger area community. The RPNA Board of Directors meets monthly (except December) on the third Thursday of the month from 7:30 – 9:00 PM at Fremont Presbyterian Church. With the help of others in the community, we organize the 4th of July Parade and Festival at Glenn Hall Park and the Holiday Lights Contest, coordinate the neighborhood patrol, host the spring and fall neighborhood

continued on pg. 3

Upcoming Events...

Monthly RPNA Board Meeting – Thursdays, August 15th & September 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Fremont Presbyterian Church

All residents are welcome!

Glenn Hall Pool Hours!



Open until August 18

Monday 3-7

Tues-Thurs 12-4

Fri – closed

Sat/Sun – 1-5 pm



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River Park Review is published 6 times per year and is available to all River Park residents at no charge.

Candidates, (con't)

continued from pg. 1

general meetings, and produce the RP Review, a newsletter that is delivered to all 1700 homes in the community.

We would love to have your help! If you are interested in running for a spot on the board, please submit a candidate statement (no more than 150 words) by October 15th via email to RPNAMembership@gmail.com or to RPNA, PO Box 19866, Sacramento CA 95819. Successful candidate statements in the past have included information about how you have been involved in the community, your volunteer work, how your work experience/skills may benefit RPNA, what you love about River Park, and how you would like to help the board. All candidates must be RPNA members in good standing. Candidates may check their membership status by emailing RPNAMembership@gmail.com.

July 4th Parades & Festival

by Kim Teague

Thank you to all the volunteers and River Park residents who made the 2019 Firecracker Parade and July 4th Festival at Glenn Hall Park a fun & enjoyable time for all. Although the events are sponsored by the River Park Mother's Club & River Park Neighborhood Assoc, we couldn't do it without the help of those who volunteer each year. Their willingness to help us provide a fun, family friendly event for everyone is very much appreciated.

We would also like to thank our City Councilman, Jeff Harris, who supported the festival by generously covering the costs of police, restrooms & garbage - not only for our festival, but for the Buffalo Chips



Running Club as well. Many, Many Thanks, Jeff!

If you attended the festival you no doubt enjoyed the live band, carnival games, face painters, bounce houses, Twist 'N Shout Balloons, soccer darts, food trucks, and craft vendors. Mother Nature

also cooperated and provided us reasonably cool temps.

The festival, classic car parade, and kids firecracker parade (hundreds of decorated bikes, scooters & wagons) is another testament to the wonderful, close knit community we are lucky to live in...

CapCity Corridor Improvement Project

by Tony Mader

This article provides an update on two developments impacting the neighborhood that are related to CalTrans' CapCity Corridor Improvement project. CalTrans attended the October 2018 RPNA Fall meeting to provide an update, and at that meeting a couple issues were raised that resulted in an ongoing dialog between CalTrans and RPNA.

During the October RPNA meeting, CalTrans shared that it did not believe it would need to move the sound wall behind the properties on Erlewine Cir, despite the fact that lanes are being added. In response to follow-up questions from the RPNA, CalTrans now states the wall will likely move to the southeast from its current location. They are working on environmental and engineering studies and will not know a definitive location until those studies are complete.

Also during the October meeting, residents who had reviewed CalTrans' project documents noted that the map showed the geographic limits of the planned environmental study (expected to be released next summer) specifically excluding homes in River Park. Later, residents and RPNA asked CalTrans to explain how homes close to the

freeway do not meet the legal requirements to be within the scope of the environmental impact study. CalTrans e-mailed a response in June, stating "The (study limit) map has been updated to include areas required to conduct environmental studies for biology, cultural, community impacts, hazardous waste, water quality, visual, and section 4(f). Even though the McKinley Village and River Park communities are not included in the study limits any possible noise impacts to these areas will still be analyzed. A noise impact study will still be conducted up to 500 feet beyond the study limit. An air quality study will be conducted to evaluate the change in roadway emission rates between the existing condition, future no build alternative and the future build alternatives."

RPNA will be following-up with CalTrans asking why moving the sound wall does not constitute a "visual impact" for the homes with properties backing the sound wall. We expect CalTrans will join us to provide another update during the yet-to-be-scheduled RPNA Fall meeting. We will continue to provide updates on the project. While construction is not scheduled to begin until 2023, we will continue to engage in the planning process.



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BUFFALO CHIPS RUNNING CLUB SUMMER RUNS IN RIVER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

by Buffalo Chips



The Buffalo Chips Running Club is once again looking forward to working with the River Park Neighborhood Association and the members of the community as we complete our summer runs.

Our participants look forward every year to the enthusiastic community involvement, as your cheers and calls of encouragement along the course are a welcomed part of every run.

And, as ever, if you are motivated to join us as a runner or walker, we would love to have you! For a 25% discount on either distance, register at www.buffalostampedrun.com and use the code 2019RPNA25.

SUSAN B ANTHONY WOMEN'S 5K RUN/WALK - Saturday, August 10, 2019

7:45 am -- Elizabeth Cady Stanton Kid's 1/2 Mile Run

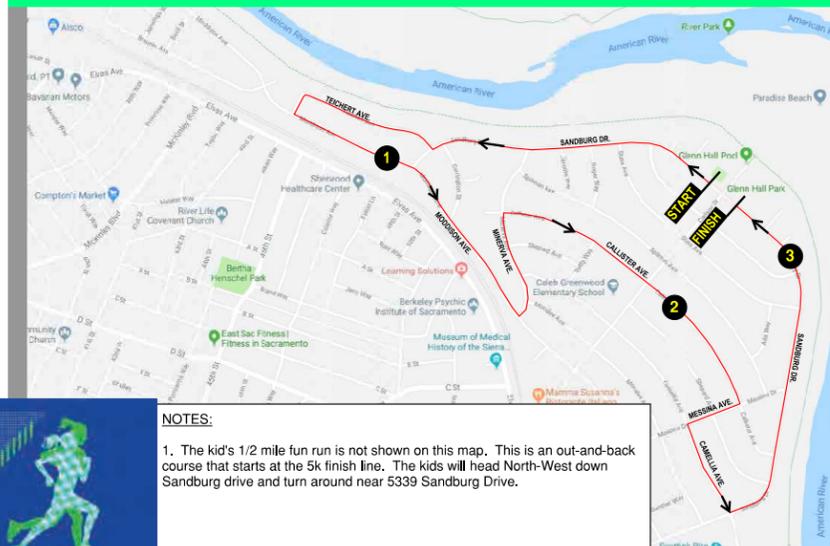
8:05 am -- Susan B Anthony 5 K Run; course closes at 9:30 am

For info and registration:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2019/21892/susan-b-anthony-womens-5k>

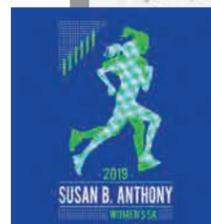
This all-women's race attracts approximately 500 women runners. Susan B Anthony herself makes an appearance every year! All 5K participants receive post-race refreshments, a goody bag filled with sample products and a v-neck tech shirt with the Susan B. logo. We encourage the women of River Park to sign up for the Susan B! Register for \$35. Students 22 years of age and younger can register for \$20 through race day.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY 5K



NOTES:

1. The kid's 1/2 mile fun run is not shown on this map. This is an out-and-back course that starts at the 5k finish line. The kids will head North-West down Sandburg drive and turn around near 5339 Sandburg Drive.



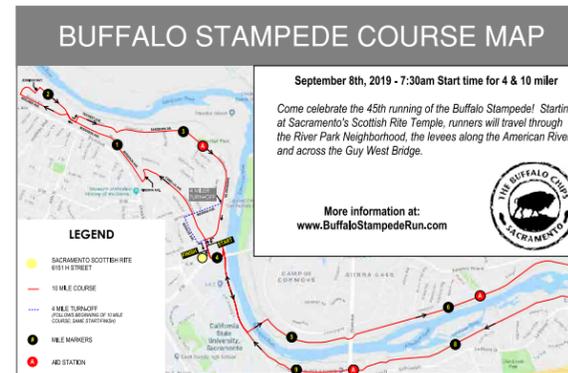
BUFFALO STAMPEDE 10 MILE AND 4 MILE RUN/WALK - Sunday, September 8, 2019

7:30 am – 10 Mile and 4 Mile Buffalo Stampede;
7:45 am – Kids Run

8:45 am – last participant leaves River Park neighborhood; the course closes at 10:30 am.

For info and registration: www.buffalostampedrun.com

The Buffalo Stampede is the race that kicked off Sacramento's road-racing tradition. In 2019, we are celebrating our 45th year. The Buffalo Stampede, which attracts close to 800



participants, benefits local high school track and cross country teams, the Youth Chips and Sacramento women/girls running.

The course starts and finishes at the Scottish Rite Temple and runs approximately 4 miles in the River Park neighborhood. The 10 Mile run/walk then heads up the bike path to the levee. Participants run and walk on the levee

to Watt Avenue and return to the finish. Participants will park in the Scottish Rite Temple lot.

We aim to provide as little disruption to the neighborhood as possible. Two weeks prior to the race, signs will be posted to remind everyone of the race date and time. There is one hard street closure from 6:30 am to 10:30 am: Camellia between Sandburg and H Street. Rolling street closures will begin in River Park at 7:30 am and continue no later than 8:45 am.

City Police Officers will stop traffic at major intersections on the course in the River Park neighborhood and Buffalo Chip volunteers with vests and flags will be at other intersections to ensure runner safety and allow drivers to move along as quickly as possible.

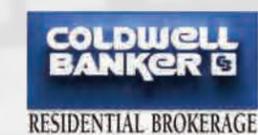
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~ Erik and Marina



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Meet the Neighbors – Sam Alongi

by Rachael Simone

River Park is well known for its beauty, tranquility, friendly feel, and spectacular tree canopies. I have former music students living in the Fabulous Forties, with whom I love to take walks in their elegant, majestic, famous neighborhood. I was surprised to find that some of them come to River Park to take walks. We have quite the reputation for having lovely, welcoming, gorgeous landscapes and trees that are very lovingly cared for!

Every River Park resident has created a landscape reflecting who they are and what they want to enjoy with their families and share with their neighbors. Each has their artistic landscape expression brought to life by creating their own designs and doing the hard work (most of the time with pleasure and joy, I am told!) or by hiring someone great to design and bring together the full orchestration of desired trees, plants, patios, and all other elements to create a spectacular landscape beloved by the owners and all who pass by.

My across-the-street neighbor, Chip Studley, hired Sam Alongi and his company, "Alongi

Yardscapes," to create a glorious landscape to match the magazine-beautiful home he created with his gorgeous wife, Sara, for their family. I asked him to describe Sam's work, and Chip said: "The great thing about Alongi Landscapes is that they are a one-stop shop. They do my lawn maintenance but can also take on fencing projects, designing and installing landscapes, and even build arbors, gazebos, and pergolas!"

During the time they were building the house and creating the landscape, I watched from across the street. I noted Sam's attention to detail and his crew's hard work to make Chip and Sara's dream home become a reality. And so, my husband and I hired him too! We are very, very happy with his work, and plan to hire him for more projects in the future!

And it turns out that Sam is a River Park neighbor too! He lives a street away, with his

wife, Robyn, who works for the county creating pilot dental health programs and who loves running and cycling. They have three kids: Michael, 15, who attends McClatchy High and enjoys being in theatrical shows; daughter Karmella, 11, who loves the outdoors; and Samantha, 10, who loves rock-climbing and attends Caleb Greenwood School. Their family also includes Layla, a rescued boxer; and Cheeto, a rescued orange cat.

Sam's father was in the Navy, and Sam grew up and went to high school in San Diego. He attended UC Davis as an economics major, earned an MBA at Tulane U, and an MPH from George Washington U. But he says he found his calling as a landscape craftsman. Sam and his family love the outdoors and spend a lot of time at the river together, and he is very happy to be in his element working in the natural world, creating beauty.

Sam is very passionate about his work. When you have hired him, he says, "your yard becomes my yard," and he lovingly cares for your home and landscape as if it were for his family. He said he loves to create "smiles for the outside," and enthusiastically takes on projects large and small, enjoying being at the center of the creative process that gives people so much joy.

Sam works with a team of three employees: Louis, who has been with him for eight years, and two others, who he says are great. Sam is a hands-on landscaper; he works with his team 80-100% of the time.

Sam's house is at 5323 Callister, where he created his landscape with materials from other projects: he loves to recycle and re-purpose. Go see the stunning landscape he designed! Across the street from him is a landscape he created with a simple yet unique concrete walkway in staggered rectangles, with fragrant roses on the side. The owners feel it fits the feeling of their home beautifully!

Sam never advertises, as he receives his clients thru word of mouth and appreciation of his work. He says this "personalizes the meaning of the process." All of us that are lucky enough to work with Sam recommend him highly!



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3. Whatever questions you have about your property please call me.

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“Show Us Your Tree(s)!”

The River Park Tree Canopy Project Committee (RPTCP) recently asked our River Park neighbors to “Show Us Your Tree(s)!” Here’s the first tree submittal—found at the Chanecka-Slater home located on Spilman Avenue.



Sadly, the family lost their huge heritage Zelkova in March, 2014. They asked for and received a replacement Sawleaf Zelkova from the Sacramento Tree Foundation and SMUD. River Park neighborhood volunteers planted the tree in the family’s front yard at the first RPTCP community

by Kate Riley and Jan Wooley

planting, February 28, 2015. Look what four years of growth has produced! The tree is well on its way to providing substantial shade—not just for the family home, but for the neighborhood as well.



Do YOU need a tree? The application deadline to receive a free tree from the Sacramento Tree Foundation/SMUD is September 30, 2019. Act now by contacting Kate Riley, RPTCP Co-chair, for more information

at kbriley@surewest.net. Or, you may request your free tree by completing the online form at <http://riverparksacramento.net/rp-tree-project/river-park-tree-canopy-project-request-form>.

Planting assistance will be provided to those who request it. Volunteers will be planting trees in River Park on Saturday, November 16, 2019.

Show us YOUR tree! Do you have a tree you’d like to see featured in the River Park Review? Let Kate know, and we’ll see that your photo(s) is posted in a future River Park newsletter. Your featured tree can be any tree in the River Park neighborhood, not just one planted by the RPTCP. We look forward to receiving your submittals!



Come join the River Park Mother’s Club!

by Erika Giorgi

The River Park Mothers Club has been a River Park tradition and institution since 1954. The club is open to any and all mothers who live in our neighborhood. Upcoming activities include:

- * Crocker Arts Mix (July 11th)
- * Family S’mores Night (July 19th)
- * Kaia Fit Workout (Summer)
- * Pool Party at Glenn Hall Pool (August 11th)
- * Paddle Board Yoga (July 21st and August 1st)
- * Mom’s Night In With Dessert and Wine pairings (August 15th)
- * Clothing Swap (September)
- * Family Night at Glenn Hall Park (TBD)
- * Meals for new moms
- * Park Meet-Ups

River Park Mother’s Club is a great way to meet your neighbors, find new friends at our playgroups, and have fun. New members are always welcome! The club does charge membership dues, which pay for club activities. For more information, please check out our website at riverparkmothersclub.com.

River Park Garden Club Update

by Ron McCormack

The River Park Garden Club is on summer break. Potlucks will begin again in the fall. The first potluck is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th, at 6:30 PM. These gatherings are always at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, unless otherwise noted. Look for a full slate of speakers bringing interesting topics to the Club next season. If joining the group interests you, please reach out to Pat Smith, membership coordinator at 916 454-5637. She can answer any questions and get you on your way to a new social/educational experience with the finest neighbors in the city.

We are pleased to announce that club officers have agreed to remain in their positions for another season. They are:

Erik Faye, *President*

Lee and Therese Ruth, *co-Vice Presidents*

Brian Brosseau, *Treasurer*

Allana Butterworth, *Secretary*

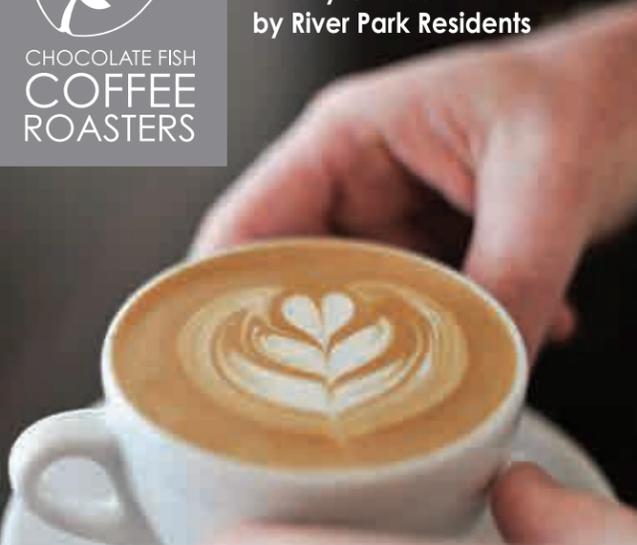
After their first success, the club’s garden tour committee is already working on next year’s tour. Anyone who has a garden they think would show well in the spring and has a good story to tell, such as “How to create a garden in 10 x 10 feet” or “How we created a butterfly garden for our kids”, would be perfect. Please contact Pat Smith (psmith5324@aol.com), with your garden possibilities. Thanks!

Enjoy the summer River Park. We will see you in the fall.



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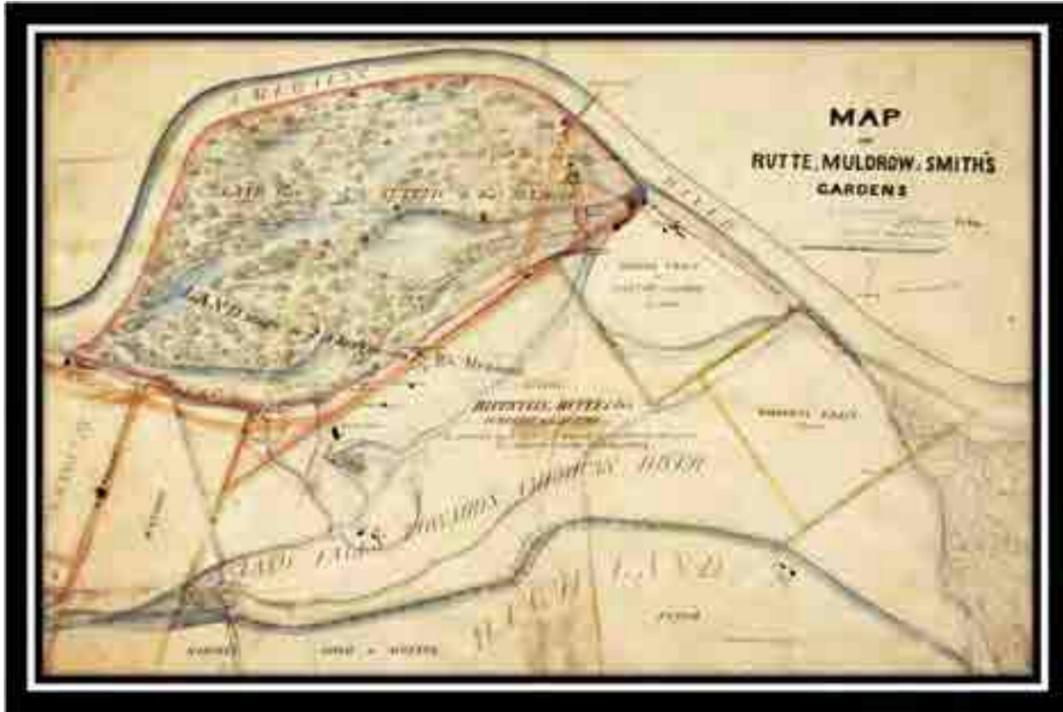
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Membership Dues are \$15.00 annually.

Please make your check payable to:
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Questions? rpnamembership@gmail.com

[This is a re-print of an article from April 2017]

by Richard Vincent



upon a hill overlooking the river at the north end of the plot, amid four acres of lawns and flower gardens. His house and the show gardens were connected to the production gardens by roads lined with a variety of shade trees. Smith built two miles of walkways for visitors to stroll and enjoy the gardens. The paths were paved with crushed shells brought from San Francisco by schooner.

In the 1850's, northeastern River Park was a botanical oasis known as "Smith's Pomological Garden."

Anthony Preston Smith and 29 co-investors purchased a bark in New York, loaded it with supplies for the gold fields, and sailed around the Horn to California, arriving in San Francisco in July, 1849. In December, A.P. came to Sacramento, purchased 50 acres of land from John Sutter, and formed the partnership of Smith, Baker & Barber, nurserymen and gardeners. The fifty acres were comprised of what is now River Park down to about Bevil Street (as far as I can make out) plus the ground now covered by the rail road levee and a bit of East Sac. Eventually, he increased the property to 90 acres. (I have not learned the boundaries of the larger plot.)

Smith immediately set to creating a nursery, orchard, and lush garden that served Sacramento as a resort. He built his home

Within a year of arriving, Smith was producing vegetable seeds. Within two years he was propagating and selling flowers, shrubs, fruit trees, and decorative trees for transplanting. By 1856, his "Descriptive Catalogue Offering an Unusually Fine Stock of Choice Roses" listed 80 varieties of hybrid perpetuals, among an overall stock of 15,000 plants. The original stock came by wagons across the country and by ship around the Horn.

The California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences reported in December 1859 that Smith's Pomological Gardens "may now justly be called the most extensive Fruit Gardens on the Pacific Coast....The crops of Peaches and Pears from these Gardens, for several years, have been enormous; the sales in the gross have been, for several years, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, and even seventy thousand dollars a year!" (The latter amount equals about \$1.9 million today.) The article also hails Smith for "diffusing very large sums annually among the

working classes; thus doing a vast amount of public good."

Preston experimented to find wine grapes suitable for the region. Zinfandel, A History of a Grape and Its Wine (Charles L. Sullivan, 2003) credits Smith with bringing the first Zinfandel nursery stock to the west in 1853. The descendants of this vine stock, then called Black St. Peter, are the ancestors of what is now planted throughout the Sierra foothills. His nursery propagated the first camellias successfully grown in California—over 1500 plants.

In 1855 Smith was offered \$75,000 for the Gardens (about \$2 million today). He declined because he thought the property was worth at least \$100,000. He was no doubt right, given that he was netting \$40,000 per year by 1857. But, had he known what the future would hold for his home and Gardens, he would have accepted the offer.

The winter of 1861/1862 brought mammoth flooding to the central valley, including Sacramento. It was the impetus for raising the streets and commercial buildings of Sacramento in the 1860's and building the levee that is along Elvas Avenue today.

A.P. Smith's home was swept away along with many work sheds as the deluge undercut and washed away 500 feet of land along the riverbank. From one to six feet of silt covered the gardens. Nearly all fruit trees were killed.

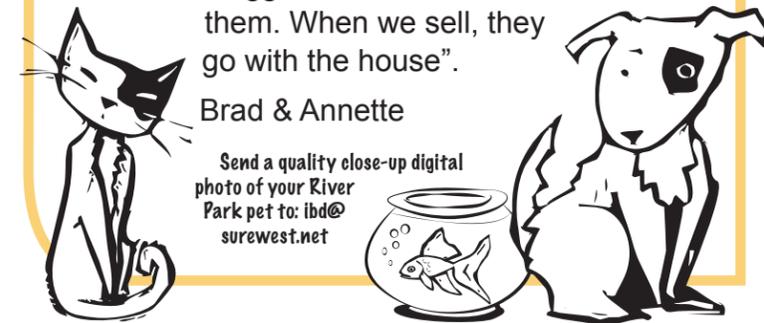
Smith and his neighbors fought unsuccessfully to have their lands included within the new levee, but the battle was lost. Nevertheless, he set to restoring his gardens, only to be flooded out again in 1871. When he passed away in

Park Pets



SPEEDY & METHUSELAH

Speedy and Methuselah have lived in River Park a long time. Methuselah moved in with the owners in 1966. Speedy came later when his previous owners moved to Idaho in 1973. Both are California Desert Tortoises and are permitted and tagged by CA Fish & Game. The owners say "We don't snuggle with them, but we do talk to them. When we sell, they go with the house".



Brad & Annette

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

1877, his once-glorious gardens had diminished to a small, run-down fruit farm.

A.P. Smith is buried in plot #547, now part of the East Bed of the Historic Rose Garden in Sacramento's City Cemetery, a fitting location for a man whose enterprise supplied Sacramento with its first camellias, the orchards of California with pear, apple, and other fruit stock, and the foothill vineyards with Zinfandel vines.

Sources: Golden Notes of the Sac Co. Hist. Soc., October 1958

Peper, Paula Jan; Historical Environmental Research, October 23, 2011 http://sutterparkneighborhood.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Peper_Sutter_History_08-23-12.pdf

River Park Crime Report

36th Annual National Night Out – August 6, 2019

by Lynette Scalora-Palacios

National Night Out is an annual event, held on the first Tuesday in August, that builds community and police partnerships along with creating neighborly camaraderie. It is designed to increase crime prevention awareness by involving citizens, law enforcement agencies, neighborhood organizations, and local officials in over 10,000 communities across the nation.

National Night Out began back in August 1984, involving 2.5 million neighbors in 400 communities across the nation. This was all through an existing network of neighborhood watch groups, law enforcement agencies, and other crime prevention and civic groups. It started with a front porch vigil as a symbol of neighborhood camaraderie; but over the years, these national neighborhood events grew into block parties, parades, cookouts and other larger festivities, including visits from local law

enforcement and emergency personnel.

This year National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 6. The River Park Neighborhood Association is encouraging residents to take part in the event. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your neighbors by getting out in your front yard and hosting a neighborhood party, ice cream social, BBQ, or casual gathering. Future National Night Out events could be planned for River Park, and registration with the City of Sacramento would include participation with the Sacramento Police Department.



When we know our neighbors and our surroundings, we can build a safer community. Make this year a good one to celebrate National Night Out and get to know your neighbors. As a reminder, River

Park also has a neighborhood watch program, and participation is greatly encouraged. For more information, contact riverparkpatrol@gmail.com. Knowing your neighbors and keeping an awareness of what is going on in our neighborhood will continue to keep River Park a safe and wonderful community to live in.

Articles for the Review...

If you'd like to contribute,
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