



River Park Review

Vol. 9, No. 9

www.riverparksacramento.net

Read candidate statements, then vote for RPNA directors

Mail ballots being sent to all RPNA members

Ballots due in by November 1

Aneesah Al-Mohsen

I've been a resident of the River Park Neighborhood since March of 2006. I am a Volunteer Block Captain and Night Patrol for the River Park Neighborhood Association. I've been married 24 years to my husband Mike. I have a Business Management Degree and currently a Property Manager for the River Park Apartments and Shopping Center as well as an Accounting Manager for a company in Sacramento that manages Home Owners Associations. My goal is to take an even more active role in our community and improve the following: Maintain a viable living community where people want to invest not only part of their life but also their financial resources (i.e., property values) and maintain River Park's reputation as one of the safest communities in Sacramento.

Frank Cirill

My wife Doris and I have lived in River Park for 45 years. I have been a member of the River Park Neighborhood Association board of directors for approximately ten years. I have also been a member of the Save the American River Association board of directors for forty years. My wife Doris was a member of the Caleb Greenwood PTA in the 1970s. She also served as an officer of the PTA. Both of our children attended Caleb Greenwood School. While on the RPNA board I have served as chairman of the Government liaison Committee.

Steve Harriman

My primary reason for seeking a second term on the RPNA Board is a desire to continue to contribute to the quality of life in River Park. During my first term I have been involved in a variety of projects, including the July 4th parade and festival, the CPTED project at Glenn Hall Park, night patrol, the Glenn Hall pool fundraiser, the 501(c)(3) conversion, the RPNA Review, and Board elections. Neighborhood associations are especially important during times of shrinking government programs, and I strongly believe the work of RPNA contributes to the public safety and neighborhood spirit of River Park. I take pride in my contributions to our community, and I'm excited for the opportunity to serve a second term on the RPNA Board.

Steve Johns

I am a lifelong Sacramentan and have been fortunate to live in River Park for the past 11 years on Sandburg Drive with my wife Pam. For many years, I have practiced land use and environmental law in the area, including almost 9 years as an attorney for the City of Sacramento. In that role, I developed strong relationships with many of the governmental agencies and officials who are involved with River Park, including the City of Sacramento, the County Parks Department and the American River Flood Control Agency. If elected to the River Park Neighborhood Association Board, I would work to ensure that the relationships with these agencies are further strengthened for the benefit of River Park. The current budgets of all levels of government will continue to be strained, and I will advocate on behalf of River Park to ensure that it will not be negatively affected.

When I am not working, I am an active volunteer with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, the B Street Theatre and the Folsom Chamber of Commerce. I also enjoy socializing with my neighbors and walking my two dogs, Ellie and Spooner. I am committed to this neighborhood, its success and its future.

Kristin Maxim

I moved to River Park in 2000 and put down roots for the first time in my life. My children have known no other home and are deeply connected to Caleb Greenwood. My youngest child is in 3rd grade and my oldest is now an 8th grader at Sutter Middle School. I love River Park and am grateful for the friendships made here, the beautiful streets where we ride our bikes and the strong sense of community. My work experience in Planning, Design & Project Management for Sutter Health will help me effectively address some key issues facing River Park. My participation in the 2009 City of Sacramento Mgmt Academy helped me develop relationships with city staff and gain an understanding of our city is run. I'd like to serve on the RPNA board so I can join the effort to support and promote the great quality of life we all enjoy.



Continued on page 2

Thursday Oct. 8
Town Hall Meeting
 regarding changes to the
 City's Charter
 6:30 p.m.
Caleb Greenwood School

Thursday Oct. 15
RPNA Meetings
 Block captains 6:30 p.m.
 RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian Church
Geneva Room
 Everyone is welcome

Saturday Nov. 7
River Park
Fall General Meeting
 10 a.m.
Fremont Presbyterian Church
Geneva Room

Thursday Nov. 19
RPNA Meetings
 Block captains 6:30 p.m.
 RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian Church
Geneva Room
 Meeting open to all

Candidates continued from page 1

Tony Rice

My family and I recently relocated to the fabulous community known to everyone as River Park. I have lived in Sacramento for nearly 15 years, and when my fiancé and her two children moved to Sacramento so we could become a full-fledged family, I knew from the outset that I wanted to live in River Park. As you all know, River Park is an exceptional enclave, close to everything Sacramento has to offer, yet tucked away enough to develop its own priorities and direction. To that end, I would be honored to become a member of the RPNA Board. I received my bachelors in government from CSU, Sacramento, and have applied that education to working in the Legislature, and for the last 10 years, as a lobbyist with my own firm, Rice/Englander & Associates. My firm specializes in local government representation at the state and local level. I would be honored to apply myself fully to River Park and the great neighbors that comprise such an outstanding community

Andrea Schroeder-Beile

I am a native Sacramentan. I am a registered nurse and have worked at Kaiser for 26 years. River Park's cozy atmosphere has kept me as a resident here for the last 16 years. Both of my now-adult children grew up as students at Caleb Greenwood, members of the Glenn Hall River Rats, players on the River Park soccer teams, and regular fixtures at the local Pops in the Park events. Over the years, I have watched many beautiful improvements within the River Park community including extensions of the bike trail, the remodeled playground and the beautiful Yermol memorial. I would consider it an honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to be an advocate for the River Park

Kristin Wright

It has been 9 years since my husband, myself and our three children moved into River Park – a decision solidified by the sense of community, safety and exceptional quality of life we've experienced since living here. It has been my pleasure to serve for the past two years on the RPNA Board with some very dedicated members of our neighborhood. I would love the opportunity to continue serving and honor the great traditions that have kept generations of families in the park as well as attracted the many young families who have and continue to move here seeking that same quality of life. I'm especially interested in expanding community/school partnerships, neighborhood safety and honoring the great traditions of our community.

Cleanup Cleans up

By Kate Mooney

River Park's stretch of the parkway received some much needed TLC by participating in the Great American River Clean up on Saturday, September 19. The event was sponsored by the Great American Parkway Foundation and locally by RPNA. Over 80 enthusiastic volunteers of all ages signed in at Glenn Hall Park between nine and noon. Once they were outfitted with trash bags, sanitizing gel and gloves, they were off to hunt down and bring back the guilty items polluting our area. The volunteers were from families, CSUS ROTC, Boy Scout Troop #8 (6th year tradition) and many dog walkers who rallied to pick up debris along our beautiful stretch of the parkway.



Not only was trash collected, but plants as well. Chris Bujalski, a volunteer Weed Warrior, in partnership with the California Native Plant Society of Sacramento, quickly rounded up a posse to track down the invasive Red Sesbania. Commonly known as Rattlebush, this pesky plant is poisonous to animals and elbows out beneficial plants that are vital to the nourishment of

our local fauna. Clearly this bad hombre had to be stopped. Chris and his warriors brought back bags of the plant and any pods to prevent reseeding.

After returning with their brimming trash and recycling bags, volunteers cleaned off and then visited over refreshments. Our group rounded up a scavenger hunt-like list of items. They found the usual suspects like cigarette butts, plastic bottles and alcohol containers. The bigger culprits retrieved were a bike frame, a grill, mismatched shoes, a nerf football, a deflated soccer ball, wayward golf balls, unopened beer cans, PVC piping, clothing and an air mattress. Rian Toth of the American Parkway Foundation has been checking in volunteers for over 5 years, "It's great coming here each year [to River Park] and seeing familiar faces, and volunteers turn this event into a tradition. There's always an energetic group of people that turn out, and I love it." We hope to see you and your family here next year. Maybe you will be the one who finds the most unusual item that wins the scavenger hunt!

Caleb Greenwood students make solid progress on state tests

By Lupita Cortez Alcalá

Caleb Greenwood K-8 students performed exceptionally well on the California Standards Tests in 2009. They achieved a score of 845, starting with a base of 810. All subgroups met their growth targets. Latino students went up by 37 points, white students increased by 31 points, low socio-economic students increased by an amazing 56 points, and special education students increased by 33 points. Caleb Greenwood is truly helping to close the achievement gap and should be congratulated!

The purpose of the Academic Performance Indicator, known commonly as the API, is to measure the academic performance and growth of schools. It is a numeric index (or scale) that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. A school's score on the API is an indicator of a school's performance level. The statewide API performance target for all schools is 800.

The median API score among 100 similar schools is 828. Caleb Greenwood's 2008 statewide ranking is 7 on a scale of 10, and when compared with 100 similar schools of the same type, it ranked 5. Caleb's 2009 rankings are not in, but are expected to increase due to its great improvement this year. For more information on STAR results go to <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

We should be very proud of our neighborhood school. What can you do to help continue to make Caleb a state-of-the-art school? Donate your time, participate in the PTSO, the school site council, volunteer in the classroom or participate in fundraisers.

But most importantly, help your children be successful in school. Make sure they have a healthy breakfast, snack and lunch; read to them; help them with their homework, and be aware of when major projects and book reports are due. Your neighborhood and son's or daughter's school experience and opportunities are strongly linked to what you are willing to invest.

Caleb Greenwood School/Neighborhood Partnership

October Happenings: Tuesday October 13 - Family Reading Nite, Friday October 23 - School Fall Festival.

Mark your calendars for the RPNA/Caleb Greenwood Holiday Breakfast and Fun Run Saturday December 12, 2009.

For more details on all upcoming events see the school website at: <http://schools.scusd.edu/calebgreenwood/newsite/index.asp>

School wish list:

- ◆ Old Instruments: Do you still have that old clarinet or violin in the attic? Mrs. Brown (Caleb's own music teacher) could use them for demonstration purposes. It's so much better to see, feel and hear an instrument than to just see a picture and listen to a recording.
- ◆ CD-R blanks: Mrs. Brown uses lots of these for morning sing and for student performance recordings.

Coming soon to Caleb Greenwood: "Who are the people in your neighborhood?" Do you have some interesting history to share about our neighborhood/Caleb Greenwood? Do you have an amazing talent, job or hobby? If so, we'd love to connect our great neighborhood history and talented residents with the students at Caleb Greenwood.

Email kristin_wright@rocketmail.com or menzmers@yahoo.com for more information.



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Mothers' Club seeks auction items



By Jill Bornemann

River Park has had an active and involved Mothers' Club for the last fifty-five years. Our goal is to educate, entertain and enhance the lives of not only our members, but all children and caregivers in our neighborhood.

In 2009 some of the children's events we organized have included "Stranger Danger" in partnership with the SPD, "Fire and Water Safety" hosted by our local SFD Station 8, Arts and Crafts Nights, Cooking Lessons, Swimming Parties, and an upcoming Halloween Party.

For the community, we have arranged home cooked meals for moms with new babies. We contributed time, money, and woman-power to the 4th of July Parade, Screen on the Green, and worked with the RPNA to raise funds to keep Glenn Hall Park Pool open.

We are now turning back to the community for help.

Every November we host a fund-raising Auction to help subsidize our events. We know there is a wealth of talent and creativity in River Park and we are hoping you could donate some of it to us. If you are a painter or a photographer, do you have an image that we could auction off? If you are a wine maker, do you have a few bottles that you could donate? If you are a gardener, do you have any plants that could use a new home? If you have time, could you offer it to help a member with childcare, or dog walking or house sitting? Do you work for a company that has a hot product or tickets to a great show?

Unfortunately we are not officially a non-profit so any donation would not be tax deductible, but it would be going to maintain a fantastic service that keeps River Park a great neighborhood to live in.

For questions and drop-off information, please contact Jill at jbornemann@yoga-bags.com or call my cell at 415-846-1497.

Julian Elias on Moddison spotted, in record time, the absence of a period at the end of a sentence on page 4 of the most recent issue of the River Park Review.

Julian and his family are new to the neighborhood and are excited about the how easy it seems to be to make a buck in River Park.



As noted before, typographical errors in this publication are purely accidental. The editor trusts that, based on experience, no matter how many times this publication is read and then read again before it's sent to the printer, at least one typo will slip by. It's up to you to find it and notify the editor ASAP.

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A message from Caleb Greenwood School Principal Christine Hanifen

The 2009 – 2010 school year has started off wonderfully at Caleb Greenwood. The staff is very thankful to the community for the work in the gardens, the classrooms and the extreme makeover of our staff lounge. As principal, I am very thankful and pleased to be part of such a giving and caring community. Because of the support of our community, our students all receive outstanding music instruction, are allowed to participate in the Missoula Children’s Theater, and are provided a variety of art activities/events that many schools do not have any longer due to budget cuts – thank you all for your continued support! We are currently working on improving the technology at our site so our students will have the opportunity to develop technological skills that are so important in today’s world.

We would also like to thank our neighbors for watching over the school and reporting any suspicious activity when we are away. We continue to have minor incidents of vandalism: broken benches, overturned tables, smashed equipment in the kindergarten area and destruction of property in our garden area. Again, these are rather minor incidents but nonetheless someone has donated their time and money to make sure our students have an inviting and pleasant environment. It is disturbing to come back to school and see property destroyed, so please continue to call the police department and report any suspicious activity.

Christine Hanifen, Principal



William Alcala, PT
River Park resident

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James Pisano
(916) 838-4146
pisano_james@yahoo.com





Blooms, Bridges, and Buildings
Ron Musser Photography
 Oct 1 through Oct 31 2009
 Fire Cafe 5493 Carlson Dr.

We welcome the newest RPNA members:
Ramona Hopson & Tony Rice

From the Leadership Team of the **River Park Mothers' Club**:
 As we near the end of 2009, we are seeking to fill the Officer positions for 2010. This is an amazing opportunity for those that would like to take a more active role in the RPMC and be the voice for our Mothers' Club and our Community. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Leadership Team, or would like additional information, please contact Tracy Mullen, President at **916-213-7523 / tmmullen@surewest.net** or Jill Bornemann, Vice President at **jbornemann@yoga-bags.com**.

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2009 RPNA Contacts/Membership information

RPNA membership is on a calendar year. If you would like to check or renew your membership, call Kate Mooney at **739-0201** 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.

NAME	ASSOCIATION	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Jeff Harris	RPNA President	455-0996	president@riverparksacramento.net
Billy & Eve Martinez	Block Captain Coordinators	457-7725	rivrpk3@surewest.net
Kate Mooney	RPNA Membership	739-0201	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!