



River Park Review

Vol. 7, No. 12

www.riverparksacramento.net
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/rpna

Down to the wire! Voting deadline is December 15th

RPNA members vote by mail to fill six board openings



From left, **Sandy Harrison, Lauren Morgan, Jeff Harris, Frank Cirill, Lupita Cortez Alcala, Steve Harriman, Erin Hare, Bill Piper.**
 Not pictured: **Steve Hodges, Kate Mooney, Kristin Wright.**

In a warmly contested election, eleven candidates are vying for six seats on the RPNA board of directors. Just before Thanksgiving, 697 numbered ballots were mailed to RPNA members. The ballot contains each candidate's own brief written summary of qualifications for a seat on the 11-member board. Enclosed along with the ballot is a stamped return envelope RPNA members will use to send their marked ballots back to the board's elections committee, which will count the votes December 16th. For some, an RPNA membership renewal notice will also be enclosed. This is RPNA's first mail-in election and is being conducted with cautious hopes of a high voter turnout. Voters in the 2005 board election were required to deliver their marked ballots to two drop-off ballot boxes in the neighborhood. Fewer than 90 of the approximately 700 RPNA members bothered to vote in that election.

The six winners will be sworn in at the January 17, 2008 RPNA board meeting and will serve two-year terms. All board members - new and returning - are expected to take their office responsibilities seriously and commit to organize, oversee, and participate in the numerous 2008-2009 RPNA activities.

Two board incumbents, Frank Cirill and Jeff Harris, are running for re-election. But regardless of the outcome, by January of 2008 at least seven of the eleven members will have served only one year or less on the board. River Park is changing, with many newer, younger families with small children poised to make their mark. To them, as well as to all other residents, now is the time to step forward and vote, volunteer, attend, and care for your River Park.

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS

Saturday December 15, 2007

Voting Deadline
Ballots for RPNA board must be received by Dec. 15th, 2007
Mail yours in now!

Sunday December 30, 2007

Blood Drive 10a.m. -2 p.m.
Bloodmobile
5458 Carlson Drive

Thursday January 17, 2008

RPNA Meetings
Block Captains 6:30 p.m.
RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
Geneva Room
Fremont Presbyterian Church

Year-end round-up by RPNA President Matt Mitchell



Thinking back on the quickly passing year, I find it helpful to remember both accomplishments past and challenges ahead. First the accomplishments:

SMUD and Power Outages. Early this year the RPNA wrote a letter to SMUD identifying frequent power outages as an important but little-noted issue facing River Park. SMUD responded quickly by organizing a tree trimming effort around neighborhood power lines. This effort, combined with regular maintenance to the main line serving River Park, has substantially reduced neighborhood power outages – a major and previously seemingly insoluble nuisance for neighborhood residents.

Green Waste Containerization. Acting with the encouragement of the City and Councilman Cohn, the RPNA helped usher in a new era in green waste pickup for River Park. Most River Park residents now have a green waste container to use in place of in-street pickup. Some residents have opted out of the program. All residents now have more choices, and the local environment will be better for it.

Pool Improvements. With money from Councilman Cohn’s office, the RPNA purchased a number of tables, shade umbrellas, and lounge chairs for the Glen Hall Park pool. Funding provided by Union Pacific in the wake of this spring’s trestle fire will go toward the purchase of additional lounge chairs. RPNA volunteers also planted four redwood trees near the northern edge of the pool grounds. All these improvements will serve over time to make our neighborhood pool a much more welcoming, comfortable place.

Successful Events. The RPNA acted as the major sponsor and organizer of three large events for the neighborhood – the 4th of July Parade, the Pancake Breakfast, and the Fall Picnic. We also helped bring off several other neighborhood events including the Great American River Cleanup, Arts in River Park, Pops in the Park, and Screen on the Green.

The 2007 board worked hard to make these accomplishments possible, and we will sorely miss departing directors Alanna Butterworth, Joel Davis, Leann Eagles-Smith, and Emily Kapic. However, with several returning directors and the most competitive board election in years now underway, I expect another energetic year in 2008.

We will need the energy, because the neighborhood confronts a long list of important challenges. River Park faces increased crime, especially vehicle theft, while our Night Patrol program, once a model for other neighborhoods, struggles to stay alive amidst general apathy. While government agencies have recently strengthened levees along the American River, the neighborhood faces a real risk of catastrophic flood for which we are ill prepared collectively and, in most cases, individually. Our neighborhood shopping center continues to be generally shabby in appearance, and local retail businesses, including some quite excellent ones, continue to barely stay afloat. Caleb Greenwood School, probably even more important as a neighborhood locus than the shopping center, remains a major positive for the neighborhood in general but is at the same time shabby in appearance and not what it could be in terms of educational excellence (the school nearly lost its music program this year – an embarrassment in an increasingly prosperous neighborhood).

Overall, of course, River Park continues to be one of the jewels of greater Sacramento. This is a great place to live and raise a family, and I feel both proud and privileged to live here. But it takes work to keep a place great, and I challenge all neighborhood residents to at least spend a little time out of their busy schedules next year to make that work happen.

Rebecca Warren, CMT 451-5550
Jean Yun, CMT 441-0983
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Containers come...



Well over a thousand of the new 96-gallon city green waste containers were delivered to River Park residences on Nov. 5 and 6. By the end of the month many residents had already used their containers at least once and seemed to be adjusting to a new pattern that will bring lower collection rates on their next city utility bill.

... and go



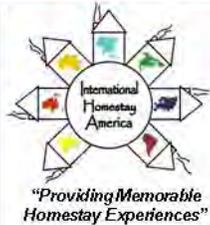
But at the same time, a substantial number of residents were rejecting the containers, satisfied to keep placing garden and lawn refuse in the street for pick-up by "the Claw," and content to continue paying the same old pick-up rate. By Nov. 26, 262 of the 1,486 River Park residences had either initially rejected the containers or called 808-5454 to have their containers removed.

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Recent reported River Park crimes

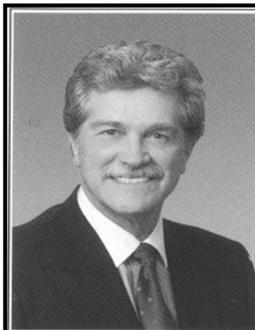
Sept 9	Auto burglary Camellia/Messina	
Sept 10	Felony assault State/Carlson	12:50pm
Sept 13	Auto Theft Wanda Way	9:00pm
Sept 14	Larceny theft Callister/Carlson	2:40pm
Sept 16	Auto burglary Seventh Day Adventist Church	noon
Sept 21	Auto theft Carlson/Messina	4:00am
Sept 25	Larceny theft Spilman/Ada	1:20am
Sept 28	Larceny theft Spilman/Ada	11:00pm
Sept 30	Misdemeanor assault Glen Hall Park	4:30pm

The River Park Mothers' Club thanks our River Park neighbors for a fun year! We will have our festive family holiday party on December 15th, replete with live music! And, our popular Ornament Exchange night for moms will be held on December 13th. The River Park Mothers' Club warmly welcomes mothers who live in River Park and are expecting or have children from infancy through elementary school. Our annual membership rates are reduced to \$15.00 for the remainder of the year. For additional information about the River Park Mothers' Club, its events, or to become a member, individuals may call our information line at 505-8756.

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The holiday season is upon us. Long dark nights. Bright stars. Elaborate Christmas lights. But also a time of loneliness and depression for some, even in a generally joyous neighborhood such as ours. Share your joy with your neighbors. Reach out, talk, and laugh. Smile and wave hello. This is also a time of special dangers: fog, slick streets, unfamiliar visitors, kids with new bikes, skates, and scooters in the streets. Be careful. Stay safe. Watch out and enjoy.

**The past is a foreign country...
They do things differently there**

Sac Bee 1952

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In brief:

- No rubberized sidewalks in River Park, at least for now. The city did not apply for a grant from the state, but says it may launch a pilot project of its own. Somewhere.
- River Park's two competing computer listserves came to verbal blows in October. Join rplistserv at www.riverparklist.com. Or join the Yahoo group by emailing rpna-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Or both. See what the fuss is.
- Starting Dec 1, look on the Bee's weather page each day to see if it's legal to use your fireplace.
- What emergency phone number should you call? In a genuine police emergency, dial 9-1-1, but only if you're calling from a traditional land line telephone. If you dial 9-1-1 from a cell phone, the call goes to the CHP and slows things down. So, if you're calling from a cell phone use 732-0100. For a police non-emergency, call 264-5471 from either type phone. In a fire or medical emergency, dial 228-3000 from a cell phone or 9-1-1 from a land line. Whew!

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2007 RPNA Contacts/Membership information

RPNA membership is on a calendar year. If you would like to check or renew your membership, call Alanna Butterworth at 457-6445 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.

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To submit an article to the River Park Review, please e-mail information to publisher@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. Publisher will pay five dollars to first person who finds the typo. **MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES: Business Card-Plus: \$75; Business Card: \$50.**