

RIVER PARK REVIEW

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riverparksacramento.net

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June 2020

In this issue

Water Meters	1
District 3 News	2
No July 4th Parade.....	4
Shelley Hescocock.....	5
Caleb Corner	7
River Park Trees.....	7
Mothers' Club	9
Park Pets.....	9
Garden Club	9
Erlewine Gate	10
Kidz Corner	11
Crime Report	12

Water Meter Project Commences

The water meter project has commenced in River Park. The project will run for approximately one year, with water meters to be installed on all properties between now and May 2021. The silver lining of it happening now is that traffic detours will be less impactful than when the economy and schools are fully open.

Main-line installation is scheduled to begin at the intersection of Carlson Drive and H Street and continue down Carlson drive. There will be multiple teams of contractors working in River Park at the same time.

When construction approaches your property, you will be notified multiple times in advance, including one week before construction and again one day before the start of work.

The information below is pulled from a Q&A document that RPNA worked on with the consultants organizing

the project. The full Q&A is available at <https://riverparksacramento.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Water-Meter-QA.pdf>

General Water Meter Information

General information is available at www.MetersMatter.org. The website has an interactive map that allows a resident to enter a parcel address to obtain specific information, including whether the meter will be placed in the front or back yard.

Hours of construction: Construction will take place weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and some Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Access to home/parking: When construction takes place on or near your home, you will always have access. However, parking on your street may be temporarily restricted.

by Tony Mader

con't on page 3

Upcoming Events...

Upcoming RPNA Board Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Please check

<https://riverparksacramento.org/> for updates

Let's Support Local!

The East Sacramento Chamber of Commerce has a link on their website to their member restaurants that are open for take out and/or delivery. Go to <https://business.eastsacchamber.org/directory/Search/restaurants-45686>

to find contact information on these great establishments!

RP businesses are VERY appreciative of the support they've received from our community!

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District Three News

by Vice Mayor Jeff Harris



Great Plates Delivered

There are many efforts underway to help our community get through this time. The City has offered financial assistance through grants and loans to small businesses, the lifeblood of our community. We are providing funding and other assistance to area food banks. We are distributing much needed personal protective equipment and disinfectant to our essential workers on the front lines including, but not limited to, healthcare workers, first responders and those who are serving our unhoused population. We are working to connect small businesses with financial assistance programs. This is just a short list of the efforts the City of Sacramento is undertaking during these trying times.

One program I am especially proud to be a part of is the “Great Plates Delivered” program designed to provide nutrition services to seniors and high risk individuals while also helping our struggling local restaurants remain afloat. The program will deliver three meals a day to eligible participants to reduce their risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus.

To qualify for the enrollment of the program, you must:

- *Live in the City of Sacramento.*
- *Be Age 65 or older*
- *Or 60+ and at high-risk as defined by CDC and COVID-19 positive (as documented by a state/local public health office or medical professional).*
- *Live alone or with one other program eligible adult*
- *Not be currently receiving assistance from other state or federal nutrition assistance programs*
- *Earn no more than 600% of the federal poverty limit. This means less than \$74,940 (single) or \$101,460 as a household of two.*
- *Affirm an inability to prepare or obtain meals*

This is done during the sign-up process and is a self-attestation.

The program is funded by the City of Sacramento, State of California and the Federal Emergency Management Agency through June 10th. The City and the State will seek to additional funding to extend this program.

Over the last several weeks, we have worked closely with all the Council District neighborhood associations, apartment communities, community based organizations (especially those that work with seniors), and other groups to identify seniors who may benefit from this program. We are also working with local chambers and other business groups, and with restaurants directly to get them enrolled as suppliers of food. This is a win for seniors and a win for restaurants as they work to come back from the devastating affects of the months-long shut down.

A special thanks to Mike Craig, Lee Ruth, August Wissmath and the River Park Neighborhood Association and everyone else for their help with spreading the word about this effort to eligible seniors.

For more information about the program, see the enclosed flyer (print edition) or click here: <https://engagesac.org/blog-civic-engagement/2020/4/29/learn-more-about>

If you or someone you know might benefit from this program, please register today!

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

How long water will be shut off: On the day when they are working at your home, water could be shut off for up to 4 hours, and access by the contractor to your yard may be necessary.

Don't forget to flush your line after installation! Following meter installation, it is normal for sediment to be disturbed in the service lines. As a result, the water inside of a home may appear cloudy or brown. Contractors flush the service lines at the hose bib located outside of each home. It is also recommended that property owners flush their inside lines by running cold water through a bathtub faucet until the water runs clear.

Trench in the street: Following the water-main installation, the trench in the street will be temporarily filled. Final trench paving will be completed before the contractors leave the neighborhood.

How billing will change and when: You will not be billed at a metered rate immediately following the meter installation. Instead, you will continue to be billed at your existing flat rate for approximately 15 months. Approximately 3-4 months after installation is complete, property owners will see the metered rate vs the flat rate on their water bill. After twelve months of comparative billing, monthly billing will automatically switch from the flat rate to the metered rate. However, should you wish to switch to the metered rate before the twelve months of comparative billing, you may do so at any time by calling customer service at (916) 808-5454.

River Park-Specific Information

Question: Since almost all RP residences have their existing water connections in the back of the property, how will they connect the new water main in the street to the homeowners' water line? Will there be any impact on underground sprinklers?

Answer: Many RP residents will be connected to a new water main in the street. Contractors will

drill a new service line from the new water main to a connection point in the backyard. The new service line will be completed via "trenchless boring" where they drill 2-3 feet underground on the side of the property without the need to create a trench from the surface. Because sprinkler lines are not marked by USA, there have been instances where sprinkler lines were inadvertently cut. In those case, the contractor returns to the parcel and repairs the damaged sprinkler line. The old water mains running along the back of properties will be abandoned in place.

Question: Where will the new water meters be located if the connection point is going to be at the back of the property? Are there options, and if so, who do I notify to select that option and when?

Answer: For backyard installs, meters will be installed along the existing service line that runs from the backyard main lines to the home.

For front yard installs, the default location is in the yard, behind the walk and flush with the ground. However, there are a lot of parcels within River Park that have default locations in the sidewalk, typically due to lack of easements. Property owners with default locations in the yard were provided the option to have the meter installed in the sidewalk. An initial letter, and the reminder, were sent in 2019, to property owners with default yard installations.

For parcel specific information, please visit: www.MetersMatter.org and use the map to type in your parcel address. Or, call the dedicated meter information phone line 916-808-5870 or email watermeter@cityofsacramento.org.

Question: Where will the shut-off valve be located? And will it be easily accessible by the resident in case of an emergency?

Answer: Shut-off valves will be located in the new meter box. To have the valve turned off, please contact the City at 3-1-1 and a Utilities representative will assist. Many homes also have a shut off valve at the house, which the resident can turn off on their own.

Water Meters

con't from page 3

Question: Where will the project begin in RP and what is the general progression we can expect during the ~1-year project timeline?

Answer: Main line installation is scheduled to begin at the intersection of Carlson Drive and H Street. More than one team from the contractor, Navajo, will be working throughout River Park to install the meters and the main lines. Impacted residents will receive a notice one week and one day before construction begins. A changeable message board will be placed in the parking lot of Fremont Presbyterian Church to provide residents with project updates.

Question: How will detours work when the project is on Carlson Drive? Will that entire street be closed to through traffic; if so for how long, and have they considered the heavy volume of traffic that would be detoured?

Answer: All potential impacts have been considered during the planning of this project. Because of limited traffic flow within the neighborhood, there will be impacts. Thank you in advance for your patience. The traffic will be heavily impacted at the start of construction. The impacts will ease as main line installation moves down Carlson Drive, past Sandburg. Residents and deliveries will be accommodated at all times. Garbage pick-up schedules will remain the same. Through traffic will be restricted.

Question: How will traffic work on the areas of Moddison where no detour is possible because that is the only street?

Answer: One flagged-through lane will always be open on Moddison. However, please plan for traffic delays during peak hours. ■

No July 4 Festivities

by Louise Dowd

Dearest Neighbors:

After much debate and consideration, the RPNA board has decided to cancel this year's July 4th parade and festivities at Glen Hall Park. This was not an easy decision to make, as this beloved parade is part of the fabric of our neighborhood.

The outstanding message being communicated with this pandemic is how important social distancing is and how asymptomatic people can spread the virus. So, no matter how conscientious we could try to be, there would always be the possibility of transmitting the virus to others.

Can we find other ways to celebrate July 4th as a community? We think so! It is time to put our thinking caps on and get creative with social distancing. What fun ideas do you have? We'd love to hear them. If you want to get involved with planning, please email me at dowlou@hotmail.com. The committee will welcome you with open arms (without touching). We will find our own unique way to celebrate the parade this year.



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A Loving Tribute to Shelley Hescocock

by Alison Lindelien

When I was asked to write a tribute to Shelley, I initially worried that I wouldn't be able to truly capture the spirit of this amazing woman. I want the article to not sound like an obituary but to convey her importance to many of us in the neighborhood.

Shelley was on the RPNA Board and was the chairperson for the neighborhood watch. She was passionate about keeping our neighborhood safe by patrolling, monitoring NextDoor posts, acting as the liaison with our first responders, and sending out her nightly "lock your car door" messages. She also served as the Caleb Greenwood crossing guard.

Along with her husband, Rex, she held an ice cream social at the Glenn Hall pool annually. And, she often had a camera in her hands and shared her favorite pictures in a calendar that Rex distributed to every house in River Park.

I decided the best way to illustrate her importance is through the lens of a few of the neighbors.

James McBride: Shelley and James met because of her desire to have more classic cars in the July 4th parade. Several times she left a note on James's car asking whether he would be interested in driving one or more of his cars in the parade.



Each time, James threw it away. Shelley was relentless and waited and watched as time

after time he discarded the note. Not taking no for answer, she approached him and told him that she had witnessed him throw three of the notes away. Busted! Shelley prevailed, and that year James and many of his friends drove in the parade.

Shelley and James developed a friendship based on her ability to see something special in

James. James says "Shelley always rooted for the underdog." She encouraged him on his art projects and helped him with his camera. She provided honest feedback that James says helped him to grow and try new things. As result, James gave back to the neighborhood by creating key chains and hiding them for neighbors to find. James also loves decorating his house for Christmas and is a two-time Holiday Lights winner. Last year, James took Shelley and Rex around to look at lights in one of his classic cars.

When asked for one word to describe Shelley, James said "heart -- Shelley is irreplaceable."

Brenda Waters: Brenda met Shelley while serving on the planning committee for the July 4th RPNA celebration. Brenda and Shelley immediately hit it off and they developed a friendship based on their mutual love for the Sacramento Kings. Brenda and Shelley loved to go to Kings games!

Later, Shelley got involved in some of Brenda's causes, including helping to set up refugees in the area. They also took art classes and Brenda discovered Shelley was very creative. They found that they had a lot in common and took decorating classes at Pier 1 and free library classes. Because they enjoyed time together, they started double-dating and going to movies with their husbands. And, once the shelter-in-place order set, they would go to the drive in and sat in cars next to each other.

When I asked Brenda for one word to describe Shelley, she struggled but could get it down to two "compassionate and creative." Brenda said "she was so sweet and loving." Brenda also wanted us to know that Shelley and Rex had the perfect marriage. Shelley always put Rex first. The week before she died, Brenda's husband had won a bunch of food gifts from a raffle for the Youth Symphony. Shelley said she wanted the chocolate chip cookies, she had to have the chocolate cookies. As it turned out, she wanted those cookies for her Rex.

Patti Martin: Patti met Shelley through a call to action on NextDoor for neighborhood watch volunteers. Patti immediately liked Shelley and they forged a friendship based on volunteerism,

con't on page 6

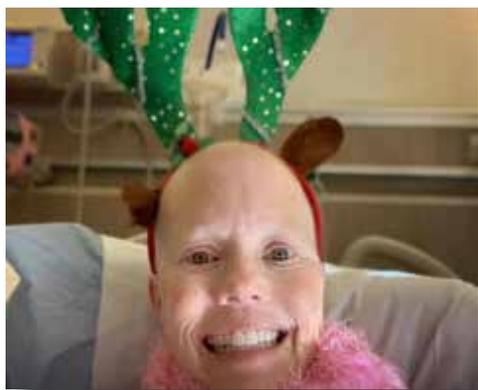
often patrolling together. They began to meet for walks along the river and lunch. When I asked Patti for one word that described Shelley, she immediately replied "light! -- Shelley was a bright light always interested in what I was doing." Patti was aware of Shelley's health challenges and would ask her "how are you?" Shelley would immediately say "fine" and then ask what was going on in Patti's life. What are you doing? How are you? What can I do to help you? These were common questions Shelley would ask.



Patti also commented that Shelley and Rex were the perfect couple. Her discussions and texts with Patti frequently started with Rexy this or Rexy that. They cared deeply for each other and were selfless in their devotion.

Alison Lindelien: Shelley and I met through the RPNA Board. I was immediately drawn to her engaging spirit. Her smile and willingness to do whatever it took to make something fun for the neighborhood was contagious. We worked together on a few July 4th celebrations and the Holiday Lighting Contest that was held at my house. Teaming with Shelley just made things more fun.

As we got to know each other, we met for tea and talked about a myriad of topics. When I was diagnosed with cancer in late 2019, Shelley contacted me frequently with emoji texts for hugs and kisses. On long text strings, Shelley always closed with a "love you"



and a heart. I will miss these texts forever. Her love was unexpected and unconditional.

If I had to choose one word to describe Shelley it is friend! Shelley was the ultimate friend, with you during good times and bad.

You will note that I have not chosen to talk much about Shelley's cancer. That is because her cancer didn't define her. Many of us would ask, how are you to which

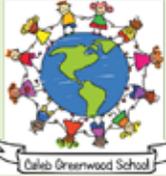
Shelley would reply "fine" and immediately ask "how are you?"

She didn't dwell on the impact of her surgeries or chemotherapy and radiation treatments. But it was tough. When she went through a very difficult patch, Rex would drive her to and from Stanford daily so she could sleep in her own bed. So, I must concur, they were a perfect couple. After the surgery that kept her in the hospital over Christmas a few years ago, he sent me a text after she came out of surgery with the message "My angel is out of surgery and everything went well." Shelley and Rex celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary the day before she passed. I'm guessing that Shelley held on to achieve that milestone because Rex was the center of her universe.

In closing, it is my hope that this tribute will help you better understand why the loss of Shelley is so painful for many of us. You see, Shelley was a friend to each of us in a different way. She had the innate ability to see what people needed in a friendship and be that friend.

One of the most difficult things about Shelley's passing during the Covid crisis is that we cannot get together to celebrate her life. Rex is planning something once we can gather again.

Goodbye Shelley. You will be missed, and thank you for everything you did to make our community safer and more fun. And, I will close this tribute the way you always closed your texts...love you! ■



Caleb Greenwood is several weeks into its distance-learning program. The school community kicked off distance-learning with a staff and teacher car parade through River Park. Students and families waved and held signs of appreciation and love for their teachers, staff and school, while maintaining social-distancing measures, of course. The Caleb Greenwood community extends an ENTHUSIASTIC congratulations to the graduating 6th-grade class! We wish you the best of luck and success as you enter 7th grade in the fall.

Long-time River Park Resident Is Creating a 300-Year Legacy

by Jan Wooley

How many of us wish we could leave some small legacy of our brief time here on earth? Something that contributes to the greater good and lives on well beyond our own meager years of existence?

One River Park resident is achieving this goal with little fanfare, recognition or personal gain. The legacy this neighbor will leave to River Park should last well over one hundred years, given proper care and respect—with a potential longevity of 300 - 400 years.

Meet Lee Ruth, long-time resident of River Park and our own “Johnny Acornseed.” In celebration of Arbor Day this year, Lee planted a Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) in the CSUS parking lot alongside Carlson Drive, near the entrance to River Park. There are now four Valley oaks in that area, all planted by Mr. Ruth. The oldest of these oaks is 40 feet tall, while the smallest currently stands at about three feet. To the north is a twelve-year-old Valley oak registering 30 feet in height, with an adjoining California incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), also planted by Lee, stretching 30 feet tall.

The oaks and the cedar are both California native trees. They have been planted in the vicinity of several large, aging Chinese elms which are nearing the end of their health and longevity. The Chinese elm can be a very brittle tree, with limbs that break off easily. As a result, many of these existing elms have been severely pruned by contractors. One tree in particular, nearest



Carlson Drive, is rotten at its base and appears sickly when compared to the surrounding elms.

The Valley oak, by comparison, is a large native oak that tolerates heat as well as seasonal drought, both found in the California valleys and Sierra Nevada foothills. While slow to mature, these majestic trees can reach 70 feet tall or more, with massive trunks and large, arching limbs. The Valley oak’s longevity is estimated to be 300-400 years or more, especially when located in favorable conditions like its native soil and climate.

In addition to planting the trees at the entrance to River Park, Mr. Ruth has also overseen the planting of a young Valley oak and a California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) on the west side of Glenn Hall Park. Each tree is currently around 15 feet tall. They will eventually provide nice shade in what is currently an open field. Thanks to Councilmember Jeff Harris, the park now provides access to water for all the young trees planted in the immediate area. This makes Lee’s task of watering the young trees every two weeks in the summer considerably easier. Once established, these trees will eventually do well in Sacramento’s hot summer months without this supplemental water.

Lee’s current legacy count consists of five Valley oaks, one California live oak, and one California incense-cedar. Rest assured that the future of California’s disappearing native oak trees is in good hands—at least here in River Park—thanks to Mr. Lee Ruth.



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Park Pets



BERKELEY

This is Berkeley and he lives on Breuner Ave. Berkeley is a Pembroke Welsh Corgi and he is 11 years old. Everyone on Breuner and the surrounding streets knows Berkeley by name.

He loves saying hello to anyone and everyone. If you're lucky, he will howl a little hello to you!

The McGraw Family

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



River Park Mothers Club Come join the River Park Mother's Club!

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. The club is a great way to meet moms and neighbors. New members are always welcome! The club does charge membership dues, which pay for club activities.

Activities are currently on hold for now. For more information and to gain access to our FaceBook Page, where we can virtually connect, please send an inquiry email to riverparkmothersclub@gmail.com.



River Park Garden Club Update

by Ron McCormack, Pat Smith

Hello, neighbors. The River Park Garden Club is on hiatus for the rest of this season but will return with our evening potlucks and speaker presentations beginning in September.

While many things are on hold, spring marches on. In the yard, lots of hummingbirds and crane flies this year. The crane flies are essentially harmless, although their larvae sometimes feed on the crowns of lawn grass and cause brown spots.

The hummingbirds, as we know, are beneficial and act as pollinators. A hummingbird feeder with sugar water (four parts water, one part sugar, boiled until the sugar dissolves) will attract and keep hummingbirds visiting the property. The sugar water doesn't need to be colored, but freshness is important. Change it weekly.

Tend to your gardens inside and out, and we will see you in September.

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Erlewine Gate Update and Code Change

by Tony Mader

As a follow-up to previous articles and social media posts regarding the City's utility gate that connects Erlewine Circle to the levee (aka "E-Gate"), here are a few updates we want to make sure residents are aware of.



We previously reported that beginning in 2018, a number of residents in the northwest end of River Park asked the City to relock the utility gate, reporting an increase in non-residents coming through the gate, many exhibiting symptoms of mental illness and/or drug/alcohol abuse, and affecting the quality of life in that part of the neighborhood. Additionally, neighborhood parking became a concern due to the number of non-residents who parked in the street while accessing the gate.

The concerns are also increasing given: (1) the gate is not zoned for public access, (2) the City's plan to extend the paved Two Rivers Trail along the top of the levee at that location, and (3) CalTrans plans to connect that location to the other side of the river via a pedestrian path along the Business-80 bridge. Concerned residents successfully lobbied the City to remove both the E-Gate and the Carrington gate as public access points to the Two Rivers Trail, which was reflected by removing that gate as an access point in the official plan documents in 2018.

Starting in March 2019, the City asked the RPNA Board to help determine the best path forward for the E-Gate given the facts above, combined with the fact that many residents use the gate for commuting and recreation and do not want to see it locked. Also, there was some concern regarding people jumping fences at adjacent properties. Following

many discussions, at the September 2019 RPNA Board meeting, the RPNA Board voted to recommend the City implement a compromise for the E-Gate, specifically to install a gate with an industrial code lock where numbers could be pressed on either side to open it. Such a solution has the potential to meet the needs of both constituents--residents who want access and residents who want to see

it locked.

Following installation of the code lock earlier this year, it was not working properly in a number of ways. This included the fact that it was either intentionally or unintentionally being set into BYPASS mode where the gate would remain unlocked. Because the lock could be placed into BYPASS mode unintentionally due to the location of the keys in the prior code, the code has been changed.

Another issue of concern is that the code had been shared broadly to individuals outside the neighborhood, both through NextDoor (which is public and searchable) and other mechanisms. We urge residents to keep the code private to ensure this compromise works.

Our main method to communicate any changes to the code will be through the RPNA e-mail list serve. I want to encourage neighbors to sign up for that method of getting updates; e-mail updates have similar information to what the RPNA Board posts on social media, but you get them in your inbox without having to check social media. The link to sign up for our e-mail updates is at the bottom of <https://riverparksacramento.org>. Residents can also email SacramentoRPNA@gmail.com directly to

con't on page 11

have the gate code sent.

We hope residents work cooperatively to make this solution work for the whole of the neighborhood. If the code lock solution does not work, the City will likely need to lock the gate permanently given that it was formally rejected as an access point for the Two Rivers Trail Phase II (scheduled to be completed in 2022), is not zoned for public access, and is not ADA compliant. ■

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This column is for kids and adults alike and provides a child's perspective on what's going on in or around River Park. Mostly, it talks about events that will happen or have happened and that children have led or been part of. If you would like to have your ideas, perspectives or events in future columns, email tracymkeith@gmail.com.

With all social events cancelled due to the need for social distancing, this article is devoted to time at the American River near River Park with my dad and the sea lions. In the Sacramento River, near Old Sacramento, there is a group of sea lions. They have come to the American River many times to fish.

Early in May, my dad and I saw two sea lions in the American River just down river from Paradise Beach. Both of them were fishing, scaring all the fish towards the shore. Close to the shore there was a huge school of fish circling around trying to stay away from the sea lions. The sea lions caught their fill and left. The next day we saw only one seal return. It too, scared all the fish to shore and caught many fish, but that day I didn't see any large schools of fish. It eventually left as well.

It was a very wonderful sight. I think that even though we are in a pandemic, we are very lucky to have the chance to see so much beauty and life just past our backyards.

We got this River Park!
Stay safe and healthy, from my family to yours.



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River Park Crime Report

by Richard Vincent

According to the LexisNexis Community Crime Report (cited by the Sacramento PD), the crimes reported from March 10 thru May 11 were:

BURG RESIDENCE - FORCE

Date: 04/30/2020

Time: 8:30 AM

Address: XX SANDBURG DR

PETTY THEFT/LICENSE PLATE

Date: 03/18/2020

Time: 10:00 AM

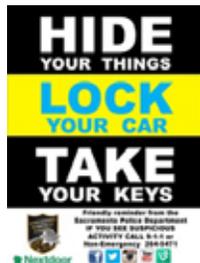
Address: 54XX CARLSON DR

BURG VEHICLE

Date: 03/13/2020

Time: 12:00 PM

Address: 54XX CARLSON DR



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