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Large Private Student Housing Development Planned for Corner of J St. and Carlson Dr.

by Tony Mader

At the August RPNA Board Meeting, representatives from the City, the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, and private developer Peak Campus joined to provide an overview of a planned development on the site of the existing Catholic Newman Center on the corner of J St. and Carlson Dr.

The planned development would significantly change the look of that intersection. The existing Newman Center would be demolished, and a new Newman Center would be built towards the back of the property on Newman Ct. On the corner of the intersection, the Catholic Diocese is partnering with Peak Campus to build a 6-story, 210-unit (565-bed) residential building that would be targeted at students. RPNA has uploaded the plans (including artist's renderings) that were presented at

the Board meeting. They are available at <https://riverparksacramento.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/J-CarlsonDevelopmentnet.pdf>. Construction is projected to start at the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022 and complete by the summer of 2023.

During the meeting, there was a discussion about potential implications for traffic and parking. The developers are planning to include only 118 parking spaces in a garage under the building, which count, they argue, is justified based on their own experience with students exhibiting low levels of car ownership and relying upon ride-sharing apps for vehicle transportation. On questions regarding traffic implications, the City responded that it had worked with the developers to locate the entrance/exit to the parking garage on J St. to

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Upcoming Events...

RPNA Board meetings have moved to Zoom.

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 members. Go to <https://business.eastsacchamber.org> to find contact information on several great establishments!

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

District Three News



by Vice Mayor Jeff Harris

CARES Act Funds and Water Meter Update

On April 21, 2020, the City of Sacramento received \$89.6 million from the Federal government to mitigate the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Though it seemed like a lot of money, the impacts to the economy were far greater. It quickly became apparent that we needed to prioritize those dollars where they were needed most. The City of Sacramento quickly moved to push those funds out to the community. These funds must be spent by December 30, 2020 per the Federal Cares Act.

The City Council has allocated funds in the following categories:

The **“Small Business Recovery and Assistance Program”** provides direct assistance to small businesses, non-profits and community based organizations to support employee salaries and other business costs, as well as funding for financial and technical assistance. - \$19,100,000

The **“Youth and Workforce Training Program”** funds worker retraining programs to help employees affected by the pandemic. It also funds basic needs support for youth and their families, including mental health support, substance abuse treatment, and much more. - \$18,550,000

The **“City Homeless and Rapid Re-housing Program”** is funding the development of a methamphetamine detox facility. It provides grants to St. Johns Program for Real Change and City of Refuge, as well as emergency homeless encampment cleanup services, rental mediation services, rental assistance, the city’s share of the Project Roomkey program, funding for motel acquisition and conversion, a homeless shelter, manufactured housing units, a tiny home program and much more. - \$16,436,000

The **“Arts, Creative Economy and Tourism Program”** is providing funding for the Sacramento Zoo and Fairytale Town and direct payments for individual artists and arts organizations in the community that lost income due to the pandemic. It also includes funding for Visit Sacramento to cover operational costs. - \$19,831,621

The **“Social Services Program”** resources were used to provide funding for food programs like Great Plates and community food banks. It also funds domestic violence and mental health intervention programs, community outreach, and an emergency childcare program for essential workers. - \$5,630,000

Another category is the **“Council Community Impact”** fund. Each Council office has \$50k in CARES Act funds to spend to mitigate the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. To date, my office has allocated approximately \$30,000 to the River City Food Bank, Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, Stanford Settlement, and Joey’s food locker to help them provide food to families in our community. We have also allocated funding to WellSpace for the soon-to-be open Meth detox facility. Over the next few months, we will look for additional opportunities to support those most in need in our community. - \$450,000

The last category is **“Citywide Operations Response Fund.”** This program covered costs incurred by the City to respond to needs across the community. This includes costs to purchase personal protective equipment, equipment to allow city staff to work remotely, emergency personnel overtime, staff emergency leave costs and all other staff costs incurred by the City to respond to the pandemic including facility closures. - \$9,623,000

Crews are hard at work on the River Park Water Meter project.

To date, 23,516 of a total 53,917 feet of water main has been installed in the River Park neighborhood. Only a few of the 1449 water meters have been installed. The project is scheduled to be complete in Summer 2021.

For parcel specific information go to cityofsacramento.org/WaterMeter and zoom in on River Park in the Project Areas map until you see your parcel delineated. Click on the parcel to find out where the meter will be and when it is estimated to be installed.

Private Student Housing, (con't)

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avoid additional traffic on Carlson Dr. and Newman Ct. The City also argued that the building would not worsen overall traffic because it would add walkable housing for students who would otherwise be driving to campus.



There was also discussion at the meeting about the large size of the building relative to other surrounding buildings. (The dorms on the opposite side of the intersection are three to four stories.) Representatives from the City responded that it would be no taller than the Fremont Presbyterian Church.

Other items discussed during the meeting include the likelihood of additional pedestrians crossing at that intersection and the fact that the developers

would be working with the City to cover the existing drainage ditch between the existing Newman Center and Carlson Dr.

There will be a comment opportunity on the project that will likely be released in September or October. The RPNA will inform the neighborhood of that release through social media and our e-mail list serve (sign up at the bottom of RiverParkSacramento.org). Because the City has been engaged on the development, anyone with an opinion to share may also want to make sure that the City's District 3 Office is aware of it. ■

Advertise in the Review

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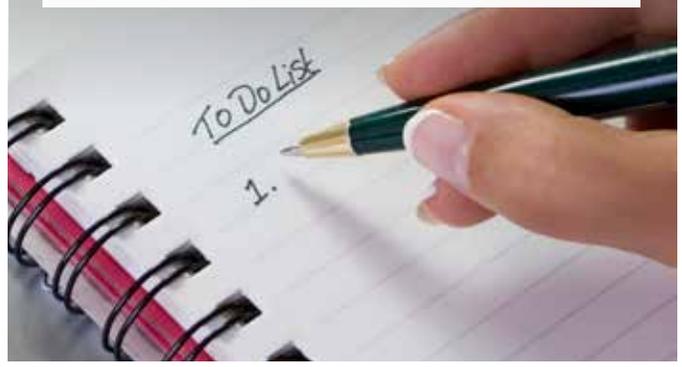


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Will Streets Be Re-Paved the When Water-Meter Project is Complete?

by Tony Mader

One of the most common questions RPNA is hearing about the water-meter project is whether streets are going to be re-paved at the completion of the project later this year, given the street conditions and the damage created by the project. RPNA reached out to the project consultants and received the following information:

In advance of construction, the crew took videos and photographs, as they are required to return the streets, yards, and sidewalk to their original conditions. That documentation will be reviewed at the end of the project to ensure that everything was corrected.

The crew places temporary paving each night at the close of the work day and again when a line is installed. They will schedule the final paving at a time when they can pave several streets at once, to be more cost effective.

The entire street will not be re-paved from curb to curb, only the areas disrupted by the water meter program. The City notes that there is an overall City schedule for re-paving and that streets in River Park are not on the near-term list.

The consultants answer questions about the project very quickly, and can be reached at watermeter@cityofsacramento.org or 916-808-5870.

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When Teresa and Martin Gonzalez needed a name for their new restaurant in River Park, they asked their perky four-year-old daughter, Rebecca, what she thought. “Gallo” (rooster) she said. So, “Roosters” got its name!

A colorful rooster mascot, taller than Rebecca, has beckoned customers every day, from 7 to 3, to Roosters since it opened June 19 at 5493 Carlson Drive. It is the Gonzalez’ first restaurant.

“Ever since I was little, I have been going to restaurants and I love them. After church, we’d go to breakfast, so I already had an idea of what I wanted my own restaurant to be,” said Teresa. “My husband and I wanted to do a restaurant. He had been in the



restaurant business for 10 years, so he knew a lot about what had to be done.”

It took seven months to get everything going, especially difficult because of the shut downs and slowing from the Corona virus pandemic. “Yes, it was a hard choice to open

when we did. Plus, we opened with inside dining, but that only lasted one week,” Teresa explained. “We had wanted to open earlier, but a lot of things we needed got pushed back. I made a lot of phone calls to find people who were willing to help me get it done. If you really want to do something, you can find a way to do it.”

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They chose River Park for their first restaurant after they looked at many other possibilities, none of which felt like the right one, they said. Teresa got to know the neighborhood when she was studying at CSUS to become a math teacher.

“We looked a very long time for a place. When we saw this location in River Park it seemed right. And everyone here was so supportive. One man was checking in on us regularly, encouraging us as we were getting things together. And that was really nice,” Teresa said. “When we opened, he was one of our first customers.”

They had already decided they wanted their new restaurant to serve country-style food with a Mexican flair to the dishes. “Most of our dishes are not spicy. We understand who our customers are and what they want. But we also know how to make them hot if they ask for that. We also knew that the combination of breakfast food and mimosas is popular,” Teresa said. So, they offer a dozen different mimosas.

The food menu is extensive, too, with many egg dishes (even though roosters don't lay eggs). “Mexican Breakfasts”—the first category on the menu—offers six choices,

including huevos rancheros, tamales, and enchiladas as well as alambre, a dish that includes steak, chicken, chorizo, eggs and peppers. “Huevos rancheros is a classic,” Teresa added.” Customers will tell me ‘I remember when my grandma would make this for me. This is better.’ It's always a compliment that they say it is better than their grandma's.”

Chef Francisco Flores turns out all the dishes for Roosters. “We came up with the menu and Francisco came up with all the recipes. He has a lot of experience as a chef and it really shows in the kitchen,” Teresa crowed. “Most of the ideas for the menu came from home-cooking experience”, she said. “But Francisco put his signature on them. Perfecting them and taking them a step farther than I ever would have.”

“It is a lot of work. We start early; then after we close, there is the shopping and whatever else must be done for the restaurant. It has become a routine, but it's something we enjoy doing. We are very happy for the success we are having,” Teresa said. “And very thankful to River Park!”

Martin, 34, is originally from Hidalgo, a state in eastern Mexico with both mountains and coastal regions. He came to the US in 2005. Teresa, 28, was born and raised here. They have two daughters, Yireth and Rebecca. ■



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Caleb Corner



by Jill Olmstead

Caleb Greenwood Elementary IB K-6 School

The 2020-21 school year is off to a great start. The PTSO would like to extend a tremendous thank you to Caleb Greenwood faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication in creating a positive and engaging distance-learning environment for our students. Thank you to our students for being open-minded risk-takers!

Keep it up Cougars!



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Shelly Hescoc Tree

River Park lost a true heroine when Ms. Shelly Hescoc left us in April. As we grieve, we remember. A group of her neighbors has worked with husband Rex, neighborhood groups, and the City to plant a tree in her memory at Glenn Hall Park. It is an Eastern Redbud, her favorite. She will be memorialized with a plaque as well. Please look for her tree and remember her years of service to our community. She was a model for us all.

Trees Under Stress: Heat & Drought



As the warm season continues with fire, smoke, and heat, we are reminded how important our tree canopy is. Is your tree in trouble? Does it look like this?

If your tree is showing early fall color, leaf drop, or leaf curling, it may be suffering from drought stress and need proper watering. California is in a multi-year drought. Many trees in our neighborhood are suffering and should be watered on a regular basis. Look up around you: you'll see many trees with browning areas or sparse leafing. They are in danger. Please review these watering guidelines, adapted from the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Young Trees

For the first three years, young trees need slow, deep watering during the dry weather.

Water near the base of the tree with a slow soak. Either set your hose on a slow trickle near the base of the tree for about 2 hours; or place a bucket with a small hole (1/8") drilled near the bottom, fill the bucket with water, and allow it to slowly drain into the soil. On average, your tree will need 15 gallons of water per week. Water two to three times per week, depending on how hot and dry it is outside. As your tree grows, expand your watering area outward to provide water to all of the extending roots.

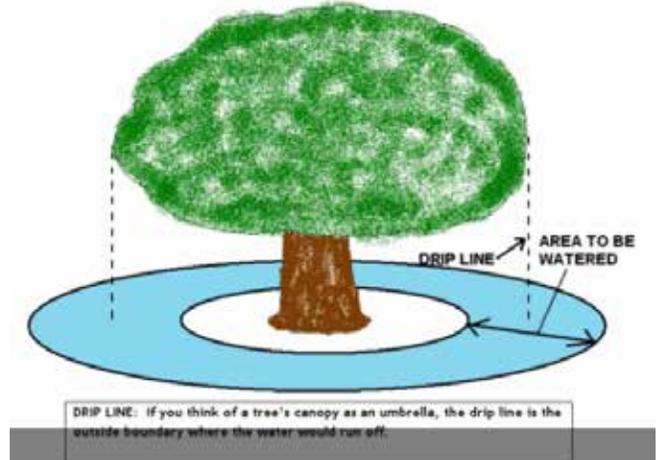
Remember, watering your lawn will not meet the need to deeply water young trees. Deep water encourages roots to grow down. Sprinklers leave water on the surface and encourage roots to grow along the surface - causing problems in the future.

Mature Trees

Know your dripline. The dripline is at the edge of the canopy. Roots extend beyond the dripline.

Water the roots. Do not apply water at the base of your mature tree. This will not effectively provide water to the tree's roots

The roots of a mature tree extend underground, even wider than the branches extend above ground. Slowly soak the root zone beginning at the drip line (the soil beneath the edge of the leaves) and extending outward.



Soak the soil so the water reaches the roots 12-18 inches below the soil.

You can use a soaker hose spiraled throughout the root zone, drip emitters, or an oscillating sprinkler on a low setting and moved to various areas within the root zone. Allow the water to soak into the soil for several hours.

If your root zone extends under hardscape or beyond your property, slowly soak as much of the root zone as possible.

Some established drought-tolerant trees like California native oaks, California laurel, cork oak, Chinese pistache, and goldenrain trees can be damaged with frequent summer watering. These trees may need one or two thorough soaks during periods of dry weather.

Moisture-adapted trees such as birches, redwoods, magnolias and red maples will likely need regular, deep watering throughout their lives and especially during dry weather. You will see a wide variation in the condition of birches in River Park. That is due to the watering practices of the homeowners: either regular, deep water versus insufficient water.

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Membership Dues are \$15.00 annually.

Checks payable to: RPNA, PO Box 19866,
Sacramento CA 95819-0866

Questions? rpnamembership@gmail.com

Park Pets



Bela, our 2 year old house rabbit. He loves bananas and chin rubs. He was rescued from a friends neighbors cat.

Karen and Daniel
Thomas

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



River Park Garden Club Update

by Ron McCormack, Pat Smith

Neighbors: The River Park Garden Club is on hiatus for the rest of this year, but we are hopeful for potluck meetings in the new year. We have speakers lined up, including former Sacramento Bee garden editor, Debbie Arrington; Green Acres Nursery's Greg Gayton; and our own fellow member, Steve Harriman. In the meantime, thank you for your dues of \$10 for the season. For those who haven't paid up: please send dues to RPGC, c/o Brian Brosseau, 5319 Shepard Ave., Sacramento 95819.

We love River Park!

RPNA Board of Directors Election

by August Wissmath

RPNA invites you to please consider becoming a board candidate in our upcoming election. RPNA Board members are vital and essential volunteers within our neighborhood. They help to ensure that our neighborhood is safe, fun, and engaged with city hall, legislators & the police. The RPNA depends on its board members to help support and improve the community. Serving on RPNA's board gives members many opportunities to hone skills of public speaking, teamwork, editing, community building, and organization. It's also a fabulous way to give back to our beautiful, engaged community and you'll make new friends and meet many wonderful community members.

Membership on the RPNA board is fun, rewarding, and also entails hard work. Board members are responsible for planning and implementing RPNA activities such as the Fourth of July Festival, presenting neighborhood general meetings, acting as liaisons with local governments, and attending monthly board meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of every month (except December) from 7:30 PM – 9 PM.

Please consider running for our board. RPNA's Board has 11 members who serve 2-year terms: we will have

6 board seats open in the 2021 RPNA election. All board members must live in River Park and be members in good standing in the RPNA.

Please submit your candidate's statement of qualifications by October 15, by email to rpnamembership@gmail.com or by US mail to RPNA, P.O. Box 19866, Sacramento, CA 95819. Your statement should be 150 words or less. Successful candidates' 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, or how you would like to help the board.

Ballots will be sent to all active RPNA members around November 1st, and completed ballots must be postmarked by November 14th. Ballots will include the candidates' statements and a stamped return envelope. Ballots will be tallied in late November, and the election results will be printed in the subsequent issue of the River Park Review.

We depend upon your help and hope that you will become a candidate for the election. Please join our fabulous and dedicated board.

Add Mulch, Save Water

Adding natural wood chip mulch underneath your tree will:

- Help your tree stay healthy and grow faster
- Reduce evaporation and keep moisture in the soil
- Protect roots from extreme temperatures
- Decompose and release nutrients into the soil
- Discourage competition from grass and weeds

Spread mulch in a ring around your tree. Keep it 4 inches away from the trunk, spread it out to the drip line, and pile it 6 inches thick.

Rocks, weed cloth, and artificial turf will increase water runoff and trap heat in the soil. These should not be placed around trees.

Get Tree Tips from an Expert!

Are you wondering about your specific trees? Send photos and questions to treetips@sactree.com to get some advice about caring for your trees.

Thinking about creating a water-wise landscape or a new patio?

Don't destroy your trees in the process. Here are tips adapted from the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

SHOW US YOUR TREE!



Send us a picture of your River Park tree. Let us know why you love it. Is it big, is it historic, does it have flowers in the

Spring or colors in the Fall? Do children play in or under it? Did the community plant your tree in one of our six Community Tree Plantings? Please email a good quality picture (it can be a phone camera pic, if it's in focus) with your name and address. Feel free to include yourself, your family, your neighbors, and/or your pets in the picture (but that's not required.) We won't include your house number, but will include the street, unless you ask us not to. Let's share our beautiful tree canopy – and how the community has worked together to re-build it! Send your picture and information to kbriley@surewest.net

Mature trees are worth the effort to plan around and protect - our neighborhood depends on the health, environmental, and economic benefits they provide. Once they are lost, it will take decades to replace them, but some initial planning could save your tree's life.

Initial signs of distress such as wilting can resemble drought stress, but other signs can appear over a year later - dieback in outer branches, susceptibility to pests and disease, and even death. Here are some tips to keep your trees healthy during landscape changes:

Consult a certified arborist

Hire an arborist as if your tree's life depends on it. While master gardeners, contractors, and landscape architects are experts in their own fields, they often do not see the impact of their installations on trees since damage can take years to show. Get an opinion from a certified arborist to ensure that your trees will not be harmed. It may save your tree's life!

Protect tree roots

Any disturbance to the soil under the canopy - such as grading, adding soil, digging, or hardscape installation - can damage tree roots. Trees depend on their roots to anchor themselves in the ground and also to absorb water and nutrients. Roots can extend beyond the canopy, so take special care when working near trees and consider alternatives such as rerouting driveways/pathways to avoid the root zone or installing noninvasive permeable pathways. Hardscape and impermeable, compacted pathways in the root zone can harm the tree over time, preventing roots from accessing the water and oxygen they need to survive. Remember, most of the tree's moisture collection roots are within 18 inches of the soil surface!

Maintain the same soil moisture

While trees can be one of the most water-wise plants in your landscape, mature trees do not respond well to sudden changes in watering. Switching from lawn sprinklers to more efficient types of irrigation is great, but make sure the trees receive approximately the same amount of water throughout the space under their canopies, and choose plants that will thrive with these same water requirements. An increasingly common feature of water-wise landscapes is a rain garden, which conserves rainwater but can drown tree roots. An arborist can tell you if your irrigation and water harvesting plans will impact your trees. ■

This column is run to let children in RP express their opinions.

This month, my friends Jack and Penny are working on their Bronze Award by writing an article about the experience of fostering kittens and cats. I hope you enjoy it and consider fostering animals yourself, to help out the community.

Feline Fostering Fun

by Jack Shelley Tunncliff & Penelope Luna Izra Deen

Jack (10 years) interviews Penelope (11 years) on her experiences with fostering:

Jack: Why is it important to foster kittens?

Penny: If kittens are left in the wild, they could starve or get hit by cars, and they don't get medical care. Also, they don't get spayed or neutered, so they multiply. Then there would be kittens everywhere - which doesn't sound bad, but it is because those kittens could suffer too. When kittens are fostered, they get chubby and happy and are safe. They also go to the doctor for kitten shots; and if they come with ear mites, upper respiratory infections, or other problems because they are malnourished, they get treated. And that's free to you because foster families don't pay for care or the food or litter. They also get

spayed or neutered. You also get to socialize them to accept human love so they aren't feral. You help make them adoptable so they can go to their forever homes.

Jack: What makes you eligible to foster kittens?

Penny: Different organizations have different training. It is usually about an hour-long class where you learn about how to take care of them, what kind of problems are common, and how to handle them. Dehydration, malnourishment and upper respiratory infections are the most common serious issues. Sometimes you have to give medicine.

Jack: How many kittens have you fostered; how many bundles of kittens have you fostered?

Penny: We've fostered five times, with a total of 13

con't on page 12



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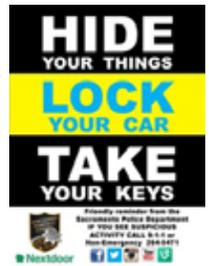
River Park Crime Report

by Richard Vincent

According to the LexisNexis Crime Map, two crimes were reported in River Park from July 14 through September 12:

Vehicle theft	07/19/2020	6:00 PM	37XX Breuner Ave
Petty theft	07/18/2020	12:00 PM	51XX Teichert Ave

Regarding crime, RP remains delightfully boring.



Kidz (con't)

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cats. Three were moms. When you have really little kittens, they come with their moms. There are also motherless kittens who need fostering but can't eat yet on their own. They are called 'bottle babies.' You need extra training for them and they need feeding every few hours. We don't foster them yet because my mom says I'm not old enough for the responsibility, but I think I am. People who will foster bottle babies are really needed!

Jack: What are common misconceptions people have about fostering?

Penny: That you have to have a lot of space and money to do it. The truth is that it doesn't take much space, and the food, litter, and medical treatment are all paid for. People also worry that they will be stuck with the kittens if they can't find families for them. The truth is that we have never had a problem finding homes.

Jack: When can people adopt the fostered kittens?

Penny: Once they are fixed, which happens at 2 to 3 pounds. Depending on the cat, that is 2 to 3 months old.

Jack: Are you involved with finding the families who adopt them?

Penny: You don't have to, but you can.

Jack: How do you know that the kitten will be good for a certain family?

Penny: You try to get to know the kitten well and describe what kind of home it would like. We have fostered through Front Street and a group called Lapcats. Lapcats takes applications and only approves owners they think will do well with that cat.

Jack: What are your favorite pastimes with the kittens you fostered?

Penny: CUDDLING! They are so fluffy and love-y

and fun to play with. When they are very young they just cuddle, but when they get a little bigger they pounce and play too.

Jack: Can you name them?

Penny: Yes! It's one of the most fun things! Here are the names so far: Tiger Rose, Lovebug, KittenWidges, Catsburg the First, Sage, Trill, Cookie, Wizard, Newt, Gander, Cub, and our latest batch Chant, Hex, and Jinx.

Jack: What is the hardest part of fostering?

Penny: Giving them medicine, the kitty litter box; and if they have fleas, you have to bathe them. Also, it's sad to say goodbye, but you know you can get another batch of kittens if you want to, so that helps.

Jack: Can you foster adult cats, too?

Penny: Yes, if a cat is injured or sick and can't be adopted right away because it requires one-on-one care. If they are going to die soon they can be 'fospiced,' which is giving them a good end of life. We did that once. It was sad but satisfying.

Jack: Is fostering animals a good way to spend time during Covid-19?

Penny: Yes; I would be bored out of my mind without them. Some shelters aren't open to the public, but they are fostering or can do trainings online. There are other rescue groups too - like we found Lapcats (www.lapcats.org) online. You can do online searches or ask pet stores for other local groups. ■

Articles for the Review...

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