



Vol. 22 No.1

February 2024

In this issue

- Holiday Lights 1
- A Neighborhood Guy ...2
- Pat Smith.....4
- July 4th.....6
- Little Libraries 7
- Mothers' Club.....8
- Park Pets.....9
- Garden Club9
- Early Sacramento
History 10
- Scottish Rite
Events 12
- RP Trees 14
- Crossword..... 15
- Crime Report 16
- RP Recommends 16

River Park Holiday Lights Contest 2023

by Lisa Cirill

The River Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA) hosted its annual River Park Holiday Lights Contest in December 2023. There were twenty contest entries displaying a beautiful array of glistening lights and holiday decor throughout the community. RPNA extends its thanks to all the families participating in the contest - you made our holiday season shine brightly!

Many thanks to RPNA Board Member Elise Drakes for hosting her festive Callister Avenue Treats Station on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Also, on both evenings, RPNA happily welcomed a Santa Station for family photo opportunities, which was initiated by and hosted by The Riehl Family on Huston Court. What a wonderful idea and a fun addition to our River Park holiday tradition!

the Spring of 2023, RPNA transitioned to Wild Apricot for its technological needs; and thus, Survey Monkey was not used for the contest voting.

We learned that some RPNA members had difficulty utilizing the new software system. Next year, RPNA will include a set of contest voting instructions for Wild Apricot to make the contest voting easier. Our apologies to those RPNA members who were unable to cast their votes.

RPNA congratulates the following Holiday Lights Contest winners:

1st place: The Behr Family, 5713 Shepard Avenue

2nd place: The Ebner Family, 5715 Moddison Avenue

3rd place: Gina Weinberger, 5421 Monalee Avenue

4th place: The Wood kids, 4151 Clyde Court

5th place: Alex Sherry, 3791 Erlewine Circle

RPNA wishes River Park residents, their families, and friends a very Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events...

RPNA Board meetings have moved to Zoom.

Please check <https://www.riverparksacramento.org> for updates

RPNA Membership
To join, or check your
membership,
scan this code:



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



@RPNASACRAMENTO

Officers

- Karla Mendoza, President; Fatima Thompson, Vice President; Brian Haines, Treasurer; David Garcia, Secretary

Members at Large

- Michael Balzer, Elise Drakes, Rex Hescocock, Marcella Jean Aiello, Colin Jone, Stephanie Mendoza, Russ Patton, Joe Thompson

Newsletter

Richard Vincent, Copy Editor, 916-228-4714, rcvincent01@gmail.com

Inna Tysoe, RP Review Coordinator, tysoe@tysoes.com

Janet Mason, Graphic Design/Newsletter Advertising Manager, 916-803-0111, janet@ideasbydesign-graphics.com

Sign up for RPNA's E-mails!

Go to www.riverparksacramento.org, scroll to the bottom, enter your e-mail address and hit "subscribe" Contact RPNA at sacramentorpna@gmail.com

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

A Neighborhood Guy

by Inna Tysoe

You probably know that Phil Pluckebaum is running for City Council, but you may not know how much he appreciates our community. Small wonder. Even though Phil and his wife moved here in 2004 ("We're almost not newcomers now," he tells me), he grew up in a small town near Visalia. Back then, he thought it stifling because everyone knew everyone else's business. But now that he has a family of his own, he really appreciates a place where everyone looks out for one another. For example, he tells me neighbors helped him make sure his son wore his bicycle helmet when cycling.

Part of the reason we're like that is our nearly unique geography; River Park is a bit of an island in Sacramento. But a bigger part, in Phil's opinion, is that people invest in each other. When someone gets a cold, their neighbors bring them a meal; when people leave town, others put out the trash for them; when life changes happen, there are people here who will support you. This is home.



It's that community spirit that enabled River Park to deal with the night herons. They moved into River Park around the same time Phil and his wife Toni bought their house here. Night herons, Phil explains, stand several feet tall and sound just like Ewoks of Star Wars fame. Sounds cute but it can be a bit uncomfortable meeting one in the street at night while walking your dog.

Humanely re-homing the herons brought our neighborhood together. And re-homed they had to be. Phil explains that not only did they deposit bird waste several inches high everywhere—waste that



attracted flies—but their babies would fall out of the trees. It was not at all uncommon to see dead baby carcasses first thing in the morning. And, in case that was not enough, the herons would go to the river, catch fish (say) but not eat the whole thing. The rest they would drop—on cars, in the front or back yard, pretty much anywhere.

Phil tells me that Jeff Harris led the often seemingly hopeless effort to encourage the herons to return to the trees along the American River Parkway. That meant removing their nests when the herons were absent by hand and pruning (and even removing) the Japanese Zelcova and Modesto Ash trees where the birds nested. That,

meant the entire neighborhood had to come together. Herons do not differentiate between private trees and public trees. Everyone had to do their part. River Park community was up to it.



Perhaps that was in part thanks to the tireless work of people like Frank Cirill. Phil tells me that Frank, an avid cyclist and outdoorsman, was instrumental in working with the county to create the American River Parkway as well as the River Park Neighborhood Association. Isn't it amazing, Phil asks me, that we can go to Paradise Beach, walk or cycle along the American River and just be away from cars for a while. It is such a gift and all thanks to Frank. As we talk, I sense how much Phil admires Frank Cirill, Kate Riley, Jeff Harris, and other community leaders. But he also knows that to get anything done, leaders are not enough. It takes a proverbial village.

After the herons left, we had to come together once more to plant new trees. But who would pay for it? One of our neighbors passed and she had asked that, instead of flowers, folks donate money to a tree fund. Thanks to her, River Park residents planted over 500 trees. But simply planting trees is not sufficient. They had to be watered and staked and cared for.

To water them, Phil built a big, rolling push cart with a drip line that he would use to water the trees every weekend. He thinks people might have thought he was a bit obnoxious (the cart was not exactly quiet) but in part thanks to his efforts, there is now a veritable forest on Callister. Something he thinks is important because it's great for our quality of life and because trees are an important tool in our fight against global warming. Perhaps that is why he appreciates Kate Riley who has been planting trees in our neighborhood for years.

Neighborhood is of course the key term. For even though Phil tells me he saw some of the strangest things over the years, he also shares with me that in some fundamental ways River Park has

not changed. Or, as he puts it, our community is a kind of time machine back to a simpler time. The demographics are different now. There are many more young couples with children and, as a result, our school is bursting at the seams. The issues RPNA deals with are different too. Back when Phil served on the Board, RPNA was dealing with introducing speed bumps, rolling out green waste and, of course, neighborhood safety (an ever-green issue). But fundamentally, River Park stayed the same.

Maybe it's because so many of our neighbors have lived here for generations. Their parents moved here



in the 1950s, they were born here and are still living here. They could have moved but the friendships, the community,

the quality of life makes them want to stay. And so, they do.

Just as Phil plans to.

River Park Homeowners:

THINKING OF SELLING?

NOW is a great time to sell and I'm here to help!

CalBRE# 01842862

LYON
REAL ESTATE
A WINDERMERE COMPANY

CALL ME!
916-247-0852

Judy Larson Manley
REALTOR®

JMANLEY@GOLYON.COM
JMANLEY.GOLYON.COM

I LOVE to help buyers and sellers with their real estate needs. I promise to take great care of YOU!



Pat Smith – The Gardens

by Inna Tysoe

Pat Smith tells me a good garden is an expression of its gardener. Hers certainly is—or so I gather from her description. She paints a place filled with shade plants, camelias, crape myrtles and a beautiful maple called October Glory. She grows geraniums because they never fail and loves her roses. It must attract all manner of winged denizens.



That variety is a faithful portrait of a woman who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, grew up near Detroit, and spent her life working as a newspaper journalist. Pat explains that she was a writer long before she was ever paid as a reporter.

When she was in fifth grade, she started a newspaper at her elementary school. After a 45-year career, she retired from the Sacramento Bee. She's still working, though. With a small staff, she produces the River Park Garden Club newsletter whose circulation is about 75. She laughs, "That's an audience of a little different size, but it's an appreciative audience."

Forty years ago, Pat was drawn to California for the same reasons so many others are: our can-do spirit, natural beauty, and diversity. I can see how our variety would be attractive to a lady who has traveled extensively and who tells me that "it's really easy to grow up in the United States and think that everywhere is

just like where we live. But it isn't." And since Pat, by profession and inclination, has spent her life amongst people of many different backgrounds, she must have really wanted to live in the polyglot that is our state.

She hadn't planned to join the River Park Garden Club. She went to her first meeting with a friend who convinced her that belonging was something she could do in retirement. Her friend was right. She became the president of the club a few years ago.

I am awed by how much she knows about gardening. The French, Pat casually mentions, like very formal gardens whereas the English grow everything to the point "where it almost looks experimental." "But neighborhood gardens," she says, "tend to be much friendlier." Maybe that insight gave her the idea to start the incredibly popular River Park Garden Club's annual neighborhood spring garden tours.

We see people's front yards when we walk around our neighborhood, but there is such incredible diversity in the back yards. And, as Pat puts it, "if there was a silver lining with the pandemic it was that people had more incentive to spend time on their gardens."

That was because they really saw them. They didn't just come home in the dark to eat dinner and sleep. As a result, people really worked on their back plots—the ones that we don't normally get to see. Which is part of the reason the River Park Garden Club showcases seven "very individualistic gardens per year." Self-expression is one of the things gardening



teaches. But it's not the only thing. Gardens are civilizing.

Pat describes how this seems to work: When anyone plants flowers or vegetables, "they learn not to trample their creations" because there is tremendous pride and

a sense of accomplishment when what they've planted grows, blooms, or produces a tomato! And then there is the fact that to have a really good garden, you must plan it.

Pat recalls visiting a very formal, well-planned French garden. The trees on either side had lost their leaves and "it looked like someone had put copper on the ground. It was so beautiful, metallic, shiny, and magnificent." The people who planned that space had visualized what it would look like when it was mature—even though when they created it, many of the plants were probably quite young.

Of course, your garden depends on Mother Nature, and she can throw quite a curve ball. We all saw that during last year's New Year's Eve storms. That nature could just whip through here and do so much damage was a daunting experience but also an educational one. The storm made people rethink what they will grow in the future. For there is no question that anyone will give up gardening. It is, for

many, how a community is made: one garden at a time.

After we talk, I find myself grateful that we have people like Pat in our community to make sure that our neighborhood looks and feels as lovely as it does. She and the Garden Club make a huge difference in our community, and I, for one, really appreciate it.



It was great to work with Elise. She was professional, competent, and friendly. She wasn't intimidated by the zillion variables created by our cross-country move. She worked diligently with our selling agent and broker to mitigate last minute details. She was always available, despite being in a different time zone, and hustled to accommodate our crazy timetable. We couldn't be happier with our home. Thank you, Elise! We sincerely appreciate all of your hard work. We highly recommend her!

~ Shar and Travis M.



We Live East Sac .com

ELISE BROWN
REALTOR®

916.715.0213

WeLiveEastSac.com

 COLDWELL BANKER

CALBRE#01781942

 MASTERS CLUB

 EAST SACRAMENTO
Chamber of Commerce

Marching Band, 4th of July

by Lisa Cirell

Let's make some noise! Make River Park's Fourth of July festivities even more fabulous.

The preparations for the Fourth of July Parades and Festival are underway. One element that has always been missing in our Kids Firecracker Parade is a marching band. In the past, there have been efforts to secure an outside marching band for our festivities, but that has proven to be arduous. So, instead of being reliant on others, why not create our very own River Park Marching Band!

Our community is full of extremely gifted individuals, and a number of them are talented musicians. We only need a horn section and a few drums to comprise a

marching band, but the more the merrier...and louder!

Any residents, their family members, and friends are welcome to join in the merry-making. Of course, a marching band benefits from having a band leader (drum major). So, if you have the experience or desire, please step up. Additionally, a marching band is much more entertaining with band majorettes. If we have residents, either gender, young or old, who can twirl a baton or spin a flag, please feel free to join the River Park Marching Band.

Interested musicians and band majorettes please contact Lisacirill@gmail.com

Here's to hoping we can make our River Park Fourth of July Festivities even more fabulous in 2024!



MORE OPTIONS MORE DISCOUNTS

- Get the most value for your coverage
- Insurance you can tailor to meet your needs
- Call us for a Farmers Friendly Review

Kevin Guinn

Your Local Agent

CA License # 0F79092

555 UNIVERSITY AVE STE 236

SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

KGUINN@FARMERSAGENT.COM

<https://agents.farmers.com/kguinn>



FARMERS
INSURANCE

Call 916.453.2910 today!
For Home, Auto, Life and Business.

Restrictions apply. Discounts may vary. Not available in all states. See your agent for details. Insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange and other affiliated insurance companies. Visit farmers.com for a complete listing of companies. Not all insurers are authorized to provide insurance in all states. Coverage is not available in all states.

I recently heard a lady say that a room without books is a room without a soul. As a bibliophile, I heartily subscribe to that sentiment. But I also know that reading can be isolating. Gone are the days when few people could read and so those who could read did so to the community. The very process of reading no longer builds communities. But while reading itself no longer strengthens neighborhoods, sharing books does. That is where Little Libraries come in.



These little book exchanges throughout River Park are expressions of the librarians' personalities. They come in all shapes and sizes. We have minions, crooked huts out of fairy tales, and Little Libraries resembling houses. But these are not ordinary houses. Some are

decorated with lights, others with painted ponies, still others with a reading owl. Each Little Library displays its owner's creativity.

And the book selection in these little boxes is just as diverse. Some (such as the one near Caleb Greenwood Elementary) are filled almost exclusively with children's books; others cater to both children and adults. And of course, since the motto of the Little Library is "Take a book, leave a book", the selection at each



library is forever changing. But no matter the kinds of books they house or what they look like, all Little Libraries build and strengthen our community.

People start by taking and replacing a book and happen to meet their neighbors—the ones who built the library in the first place. Maybe they will start talking about the book; maybe they will chat about



their lives. Perhaps they will admire the creative way their neighbors dressed up the little library and ask how they did it. Just today, while we were photographing the Little Libraries in our neighborhood, a lady told us about some of the ways we can turn our oranges into sweets. Whatever

the case, they get to know one another a bit better. And so, neighbor by neighbor, Little Library by Little Library, exchanging books makes our River Park community even stronger.

I am so grateful that so many in River Park are willing to share their creativity, their love of books, and a little of themselves with their neighbors. But then, that is what makes this such a special place to live.



River Park Mothers' Club by Megan Knize

The River Park Mothers' Club had a successful end to 2023, with 15 mothers attending the annual ornament exchange. Drinks, good food, and friendship were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Kelly Parks for hosting.

"I'm proud of our group for the wonderful events they have organized this year," said President Elise Brown. "We have provided many opportunities for moms to come together, with or without their kids, to get to know each other and build connections."

Looking ahead, the group is planning a clothing swap for late January or early February and will also organize a river clean-up in the spring.

The Board will formally install new Board members in February or March. Anyone can join the Board—there are positions for everyone and every skill and interest level. We are looking for mothers to get involved. Interested in learning about being on the board? Reach out to Elise B. at riverparkmothersclub@gmail.com to find out more about available positions!

Visit <https://riverparkmothersclub.com/> to join today!

Specializing in **AUTO ACCIDENTS**

- "PINCHED" NERVES
- ARTHRITIS
- HERNIATED DISCS
- HEADACHES / MIGRAINES
- WHIPLASH
- TMJ PAIN
- ATHLETIC INJURIES

RIVER
PARK
RESIDENT



STUDLEY

CHIROPRACTIC, INC.

3614 McKinley Boulevard

916.469.9235

STUDLEYCHIRO.COM



LIVING AND WORKING IN RIVER PARK SINCE 2004!



Lesia Johnston

REALTOR®
M. 916.743.3760
LESACJOHNSTON@GMAIL.COM
CALRE #01882313

Recent Solds Per MLS

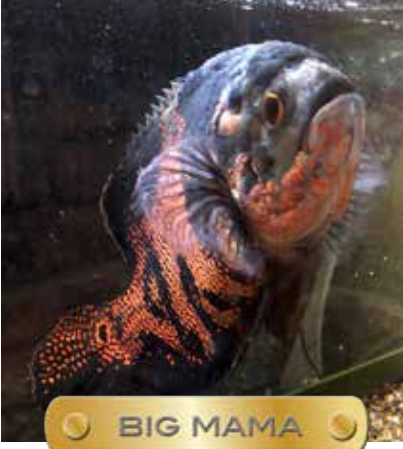
- 350 Messina Dr | \$625,000
- 5030 Teichert Ave | \$685,820
- 5328 Callister Ave | \$750,400
- 5424 Spilman Ave | \$771,500
- 5404 Spilman Ave | \$830,000
- 361 Messina | \$1,175,000



COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY

©2023 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

PARK PETS



Meet Big Mama, our 7 year old Red Tiger Oscar. Formerly known as Big Red—until she laid eggs!

She's fond of Super Worms and little kid's fingers. She's grown from a mere 1 1/2 inches to a full 12 inches. She's never met a small fish she didn't enjoy so she doesn't have a roommate.

~ Dave and Merri Sue Brown



River Park Garden Club Update

by Patricia Smith



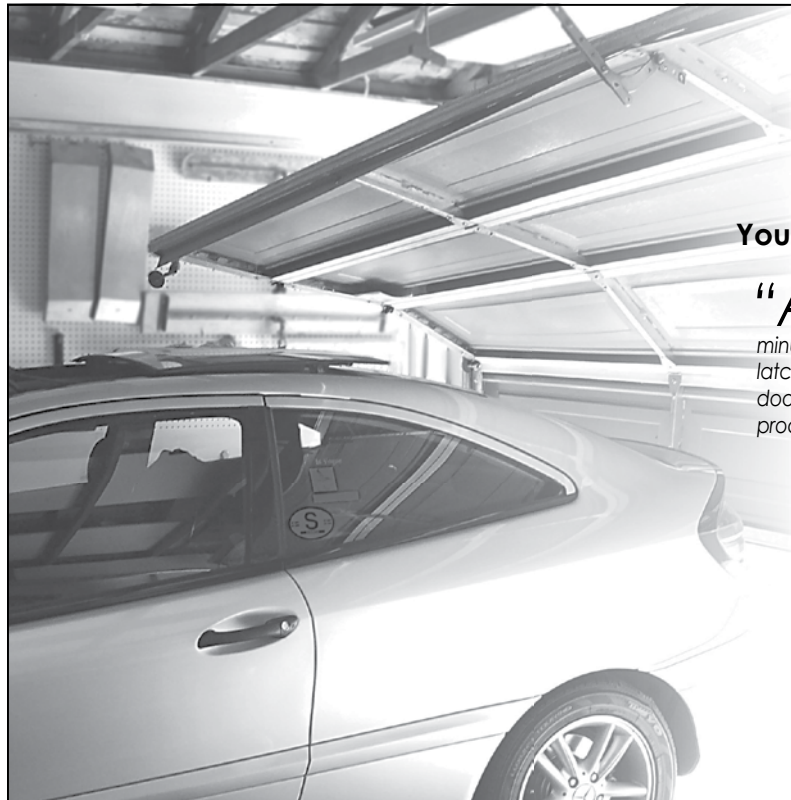
Garden Club Potluck Meeting

The River Park Garden Club will host Greg Gayton from Green Acres Nursery on Thursday, February 16, 6:30 PM, at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center. He will discuss "What's New This Spring?" at the nursery. Bring your own supper. Desserts and beverages will be provided.

Also, coming up March 5 and 6, the Garden Club will hold its fall garden sale at the Shepard Garden and Arts center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is one of the Garden Club's main fundraisers. If you care to donate garden-related items, please call Ron McCormack 916-826-2984 to drop off or to arrange for a pick-up of items.

Also, look for the annual River Park Garden Club's spring garden tour on April 22. Details on this event to follow.

We hope to see you all February 16.



Garage Door problems? Garage Door Opener have a mind of it's own?

Your River Park neighbor still has you covered.

"Amazing service!!! Russ came to our rescue on a Saturday night to fix our stuck open garage door. He had it fixed within 5 minutes (Amazing!) and then did a tune up on all the chains, springs, latches, and motor guide all within an hour. Never had our garage door work so well! He was very nice and explained the whole thing in process. Would definitely recommend and will use again. Thank you!"

- Will S., Sacramento



Call 916-764-8481

Specializing in Garage Door Service
30+ years experience | River Park Neighbor Since 2005

[The complete version of this lecture was written as training material for the Old Sacramento Living History group. It is not about River Park, per se. Rather, it is about the founding of Sacramento during the Gold Rush on the land settled by John Sutter. Since RP is an outgrowth of that original Sacramento, that early history seems an appropriate topic for the Review.]

New Helvetia

In 1839, a charming, urbane, self-promoting Swiss adventurer arrived in Monterey and petitioned the Mexican Governor of California for land in the Sacramento delta. He was “Captain” Johann Augustus Sutter, a man pursuing dreams of fame and fortune--and fleeing creditors on two continents.

Gov. Juan Bautista Alvarado must have been delighted by his impressive visitor. Alvarado badly needed some kind of buffer in central California against Russian and American interlopers. The vast, fertile, province of California was ripe for conquest, either military or economic, by any power that might set its sights there. His fellow Californios had zero interest in settling in the interior, and his few hundred poorly armed, poorly trained troops (many released from Mexican prisons) were of little use. So, Sutter, from a neutral county, could be quite useful as a Mexican ally.

So, Sutter was offered his land grant, and he chose the spot since known as “Sutter’s Fort” to found his “New Helvetia” (new Switzerland). He became a Mexican citizen, as was required to get a land grant; and in 1841, he was granted 49,000 acres that he thought included his settlement but whose actual locale eventually proved uncertain.

One thing is certain: Sutter did not envision a city where Old Sacramento was later founded because he knew the river plain was flood-prone. We, in River Park, still know this—or if we do not, the Corps of Engineers are here to remind us.

Sutter of course knew it too which is why in 1844 he founded a town called “Sutterville” on some higher ground that is now William Land Park. During the early gold rush (the gold rush thanks to which we have, among other things, the Scottish

Rite Center), Sutterville thrived; but all that is left today is the name of the main drag, “Sutterville Road”. The Scottish Rite Center, by contrast, very much survived.

Sutter used what is now the foot of I Street merely as his dock for the schooner in which he carried goods back and forth to San Francisco Bay. Sutter proved no buffer against foreign intrusion into central California. He was simply too hospitable to be the buffer expected by the Mexican authorities. New Helvetia became a magnet and haven for immigrants.

The arriving immigrants needed goods the Californios could not provide. Their economy was confined to the missions and cattle ranchos, where they did little except produce rawhide and grow vegetables for their own consumption.

The commercial vacuum was quickly filled by entrepreneurial gringos for whom business was second nature. The merchant most important to this story was Samuel Brannan, an ambitious and self-serving Mormon leader who started a trading store at Sutter’s Fort in 1847.

Gold and the Boom Town

These merchants were well situated when gold was discovered in January 1848 at Coloma on the American River. Their clientele began to grow exponentially. By mid-1848, almost every able-bodied man in California, including hundreds of de-mobilized American volunteers from the war with Mexico, abandoned all else for the mines. They were soon joined by Sonorans, Chileans, deserting sailors, and others from the Pacific Rim who got wind of the gold. Then, in 1849, began the great influx from the U.S. and all parts of the globe.

A steadily growing stream of hopeful immigrants was arriving at the fort, all needing clothing, provisions, tools, and animals for life and work in the mines. A fortune was to be had by providing those goods, often at prices ten times what was charged back east. The embarcadero was the place to do it; it was the best place to land goods shipped up the river from San Francisco for use in the northerly mines in the Sierra Nevada.

At that time, Captain Sutter was being attached by the Russian American Fur Company for a long-standing debt of \$30,000 for the purchase of Fort Ross. He also owed money to others. As a ploy for time to raise capital to satisfy his creditors, he transferred ownership of his extensive property into the hands of his newly-arrived son, Johann, Jr. Once the transfer documents were drawn on October 14, 1848, Sutter headed for the gold mines--and for disappointment and his eventual financial ruin.

Brannan and the other merchants sensed a speculative fortune to be had at the embarcadero, and they sensed that the Sutters could not keep the land to themselves. They held a meeting with Sutter, Jr., and persuaded him to subdivide and sell the land between the fort and the embarcadero. Sutter, Jr., hired U.S. Army Captain William Warner and Lt. William Tecumseh Sherman to survey the town lots in December of 1848. He named the site "Sacramento City", possibly at the suggestion of Sam Brannan. Then he gave Peter Burnett, a lawyer (and future governor), a contract to sell the lots for a 25% commission. River-front lots sold well for \$500 apiece. Within a few months, speculation drove the price to over \$5000.

George McDougal, objected, claiming that his lease of the ferry entitled him to exclusive use of the waterfront from the slough just north of I Street for a distance of four hundred yards to the south. Sutter, Jr., who had already agreed to sell one thousand yards to Hensley, Reading & Co., immediately rejected this claim.

So, McDougal and a partner quickly bought a few lots in Sutterville from Lansford Hastings (the man who had mis-directed the Donner party to its ill fate). Then they hurried up to Coloma and collared Captain Sutter, to whom they argued that they were injured landowners of Sutterville lots. They claimed that Sutter, Jr., had committed treason (!) by starting a new city in competition with Sutterville and changing the name of New Helvetia to "Sacramento City". They plied the elder Sutter with

brandy (not hard to do), keeping him drunk until he signed away a half-square mile of land in Sutterville for free.

George McDougal's brother, John, arrived at Sutterville in December 1848 and promoted the sale of lots there. He made an offer to Brannan and the others: If they would relocate their businesses at New Helvetia to Sutterville, he would give them each 200 lots there.

Sam Brannan took a copy of this offer in writing to Sutter's Fort and showed it to Sutter, Jr., telling them that Sacramento City would die on the vine if he did not make the merchants the same offer in Sacramento as they had gotten from McDougal. Desperate for success in his real estate venture, Sutter, Jr., gave each merchant 200 lots free of charge in Sacramento City! According to the Sutter case which the Supreme Court decided in 1864, at least some of these land grants became River Park. It is amazing to think that had Sutter, Jr. not done so, our neighborhood may not exist.

Not that anyone was thinking of building neighborhoods back then. For that was a transient time. Sacramento, like the rest of California, was filled with people who did not expect to stay here.

Everything was at first constructed from salvaged materials, for absolutely nothing was produced locally. Material prices were sky high. Everything was built for quick profit with no thought of permanence, most structures were flimsy affairs of scrap lumber frames and canvas sides, even canvas roofs.

The usual source of building materials was abandoned ships. During 1849 and 1850, vessels that reached Sacramento rarely departed again. To a man, the crews deserted for the mines. Sacramento City's entrepreneurs stripped the superstructures for timbers and took the sails for siding. Many hulks then became floating stores, warehouses, and flop houses. Even the first city jail was built on the hulk of the abandoned LaGrange, parts of which are still beneath the rip-rap at the east end of the I Street bridge.

The 350 buildings included stores, warehouses,

(con't on page 13)

Scottish Rite Center Events

by Inna Tysoe

There are wonderful events happening in our backyard at the Scottish Rite Center. We can look forward to the following:

- Comic Verse will be on Sunday, February 4 from 12pm-2pm
- Alan Wolfelt Workshop, "The Art of 'Companioning' the Mourner: Caring Versus Curing" will be on Wednesday, February 21, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

- The second and third of March are booked. The following will be at the same time:
- The 100-Year Anniversary Camellia Show
- The Book Fair
- The Art Show
- Body Mind Spirit Exposition will be on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7
- Conquest Sac Tabletop Gamecons will be on April 12 through April 14

Many thanks, as ever, to Jim Gray for putting this together, as there is something for everyone on this list.

Advertise in the Review

The River Park Review is published by the RPNA, which is responsible for its content. RPNA reserves the right to edit and/or reject submissions. For advertising, go to www.riverparksacramento.org/advertising
 Questions? contact Janet Mason at janet@ideasbydesign-graphics.com

Park Pets

Send a quality close-up digital photo of your River Park pet with a description to: janet@ideasbydesign-graphics.com



Put River Park & East Sacramento knowledge and experience to work for you.

Call me TODAY for all of your real estate needs!

Chris Little
 MRE, CRB, CRS, GRI
 Broker/Owner
 Cal BRE#01437284



New Location...Closer to River Park!

916-698-1961 • 855 57th St., Suite H 
Chris@LittleRES.com • www.ChrisLittleSells.com

saloons, gambling parlors, and brothels but few places to live. For nobody came to California in 1849 to live; they came expecting to find quick riches and then return home. It was a mad rush for wealth, not city-building. Consequently, newcomers were challenged to find shelter while they procured provisions.

The entrepreneurs took advantage of the demand. At Sutter's Fort, even attic rooms of the two-story central building were turned into sleeping quarters. For \$1 a night, a miner got a meager floor space where he could wrap himself in his blanket with his boots for a pillow. Sometimes 250 men jammed into the confined quarters.

"The men were packed in like sardines," a Forty-Niner recalled. "They were dead tired, cross and cranky, they swore at each other and all swore at the late comer for disturbing them. Being sworn at wasn't so bad. It was the atmosphere that tried the stoutest stomach—the combined smell of boot leather, tobacco smoke, sweaty clothes, sweating bodies, garlic breaths. ... If you raised up on your elbow and looked around, it was just like looking over a rolling ocean of men—twisting, squirming, turning over, talking in their sleep, some mumbling prayers, others sobbing, others cussing, some all of these. And good Lord, how they snored!"

The Creation of Civic Government

Even so, in June of 1849, the principal merchants met to organize a city government. At that time, the town was inundated with immigrants, many of whom were stricken with diverse afflictions: malaria, yellow fever, dysentery, scurvy, and complete exhaustion. Despite their desperate health, many were abandoned by their companions in the frenzied rush toward the mines and expected wealth. They overwhelmed the capability of the more settled citizens to care for these invalids and to bury the dead. So, the merchants formed an ad hoc city council with A.M. Winn as their leader.

On September 20th, they put up for vote a city charter that would allow a levy of taxes to pay for the burials of the indigent. However, the gaming interest opposed the charter, and it went down to defeat. So,

the council and the merchants campaigned to adopt a revised charter, which passed in a new election in December. The city government was later re-constituted under state law after 1850.

Of course, a city government did not make Sacramento immune to disaster. And disaster there was: a major flood, a fatal riot, and a deadly epidemic in the same year and then two city-leveling fires two and four years later. And maybe none but Sacramento has rebounded from disaster each time, scarcely missing a beat in the march of its growth. Sacramento's perseverance was born of an expectation of profit; there was too much money to be made for there to not be a city here!

[And money was made—though primarily not by the Forty-Niners. The merchants and the inventors made their money here. People who, despite all the floods and the disease and the often-shattered dreams of easy gold (prospecting is hard work) chose to stay. The kinds of people who ultimately went on to found our very own River Park.] ■




ST. MARY
PARISH SCHOOL

Licensed Preschool
and Fully Accredited
Transitional Kindergarten
to 8th Located in
East Sacramento

www.saintmaryschool.com



Do you love to sing?
Call Ali Lippman!
Voice instructor in East Sacramento

Work hard
Have FUN
Love it!

www.AliLippman.com
Alicia@AliLippman.com - 916-813-6503



It's Time to Plant Trees in River Park

by Kate Riley

The ninth River Park Community Tree Planting will happen on Saturday, March 3, 2024. It's a great event—fun for everyone! It's the most fun you can have while digging holes in the dirt.

You are invited to help. The tree planting can't happen without a great group of volunteers.

We will meet at Glenn Hall Park early Saturday morning, have hot coffee and baked treats, get safety and planting tips, and then go off to plant trees in our neighbors' yards. Planting will be performed under the watchful eyes of experienced team leaders. Ask anyone who has participated in years past—you will feel great afterward and can watch as your trees grow in the future.

Here's how to get involved: Type this link into your computer: <https://bit.ly/riverpark0302>. Simply provide the required information, and you're set! The Sacramento Tree Foundation will provide specific information as the date gets closer. Please note: The volunteer registration is capped at 30, so sign up early!

If you have any problems registering, please contact Kate at kbriley@surewest.net or call (916) 716-3102. Thank you for your continuing support of River Park's tree canopy.

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 seven 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. Send your picture and information to kbriley@surewest.net

Mature Tree Pruning -- *Tips for Hiring a Certified Arborist*

by Jan Wooley

Last year's winter storms brought endless rain and gale-force winds to Sacramento. Falling tree limbs—even entire trees--dropped in yards and on houses, causing considerable damage throughout River Park.

While we can't control the weather, we can take steps to maintain our mature trees and keep them healthy and strong. A big step in the right direction is proper pruning, and proper pruning comes with the right arborist for the job.

What makes the "right" arborist? How can you ensure the best care for your mature tree?

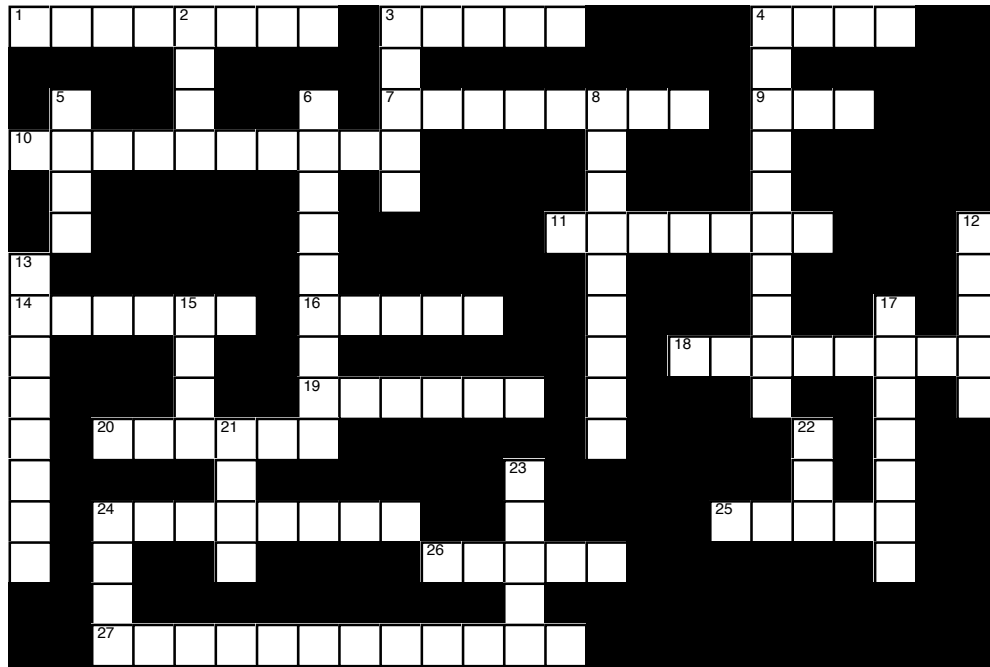
The Sacramento Tree Foundation website offers informative steps to ensure you find a qualified arborist to assess your tree and perform the work necessary. An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist is trained in tree care and carries active certification. This helps ensure you are hiring a professional who can help you understand your tree's needs and perform the work needed to keep it in good condition.

To ensure you hire the right professional to do the right job, go to sactree.org and search "Find tree care advice." Under "Tree Care Tips", you will find "Hiring an arborist"—which offers clear and concise instruction on the "who, how, and why" of finding the Certified Arborist for your tree.

Articles for the Review...

To contribute, contact: Richard Vincent
at 916-228-4714 or
email: rcvincent01@gmail.com
Please put "letter to the editor"
in the subject line of your email

River Park Puzzle



Across

1. You may think ____ Way is named after the family that founded a great ice cream place in Sacramento, but it's actually named after a family member of one of River Park developers.
3. There are vibrant murals gracing the walls of ____ Greenwood Elementary.
4. In winter, the American ____ migrates to the American River. This bird swims like a duck but does not have webbed feet.
7. The US Corps of engineers are using the water for the American River to ____ the plants they are putting on the levee.
9. ____ Way was named for Louis Carlson's wife. Carlson & Sandburg as well as Moddison and Jones, Brand & Hullin developed River Park.
10. Phil ____ is a River Parkian who is also a candidate to represent our District.
11. The River Park ____ Club hosted a Paradise Beach family hang out in mid-July.
14. As is our tradition, River Park will once again host its annual Holiday ____ Contest.
16. The name of this Way reminds me of a movie titled a Fish Called ____ although this Way was actually named after the daughter of a River Park developer.
18. Our neighbors recommend that you contact the ____ Care Association if you find a wild critter in need of rescue and rehabilitation.
19. Jim Gray and the Scottish Rite Center provide us with a calendar of ____ held at Scottish Rite.
20. The oldest club in River Park is this club.
24. ____ your trees is important whether the weather is sizzling hot or winter cold.
25. One of the clubs in River Park is all about this card game.
26. Every Friday, you can find a food truck serving delicious food at ____ Hall Park.
27. Run to Feed the Hungry comes to River Park on this holiday

Down

2. The red-shouldered ____ is a common sight along the American River. That may be because this bird of prey usually hunts by watching from a perch.
3. This rate is relatively low in River Park and the Neighborhood Watch is working to make sure it stays that way.
4. ____ was a-buzz on Baseball Championship weekend in June.
5. When the leaves fall the ____ comes out.
6. On this holiday, neighborhood and visiting children wear costumes and say "Trick or treat!" when you open the door.
8. Dr. Baad administers this kind of grove near River Park.
12. Because River Park is on the flood plain of the American ____ it has excellent, flat soil.
13. The US Corps of Engineers has begun this which is why we see green on the levee again.
15. Pat Smith is quite proud of having initiated the garden this.
17. ____ Vincent is River Park Review's Copy Editor.
21. RPNA made it possible to pay these online.
22. This Blue ____ tree, also known as Quercus douglasii is a majestic, drought-resistant tree native to the American River.
23. Every time we pass by the Yermol fountain at the entrance to River Park, we remember Fran, the "flower lady". But there is also a plaque to her near the ____ Hall Pool.
24. As you go up the levee you will see a pedestrian and bicycle bridge, reminiscent of the Golden Gate. Called the Guy ____ Bridge, it's named after Sacramento State's first president and not the compass point directly opposite of east.

**Crossword Key will be
posted on the website**

River Park Recommends-- Arborists

Collated by Inna Tysoe from Sacramento River Park on FaceBook and NextDoor.

Recently, one of our neighbors asked the neighborhood to recommend an arborist. That is understandable since we live in a neighborhood of mature trees. And, as they get older especially, trees need tender love and care. Or, if they need to be removed, it is best if a professional does it. That explains why our neighbor asked and why our neighbors had several recommendations. River Parkers recommended:

- Tree Care Incorporated, a family-operated business that, according to their website (treecare.biz), “offers a wide range of eco-friendly services.” Tree Care Incorporated can be reached at (916) 852-9500.
- The Fallen Leaf Tree, a family-owned and operated arborist that, according to their website (fallenleafree.com), offers the following services: tree pruning and maintenance, plant health care, planting

and establishment, root excavation and aerial assessment, tree preservation, and management plans and inventories. The Fallen Leaf Tree can be reached at (916) 447-8733.

- Fair Oaks Arborist, a local arborist that, according to their website (fairoaksarborist.com), offers the following services: tree removal, trimming/pruning, hazard tree mitigation, fire protection, and emergency tree work. Fair Oaks Arborist can be reached at (916) 259-5408.

I hope you find one of these recommendations useful.

Crime Report

by Richard Vincent

According to the Sac PD’s “Community Crime Map”, there were no crimes reported in RP since November 15, 2023

Proud Members of the River Park Community
Call us for information about our real estate listing and home staging services

Nic Williams
Realtor®, CalRE #02038381
916.287.1257
nic.williams@cbtnorcal.com

Lauren Williams
www.revivedesigncollective.com
@revivedesigncollective
916.208.4490
lauren@revivedesigncollective.com

REVIVE
design co

INTERNATIONAL REALTOR'S CIRCLE
COLDWELL BANKER