



RIVER PARK REVIEW

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riverparksacramento.org

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June 2025

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River Park's 4th of July

by Lisa Cirill

The River Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA) is looking forward to hosting its annual Fourth of July Parades and Festival on Friday, July 4, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The River Park Classic Car Parade will kick-off the celebration, and the River Park Marching Musicians (RPMM) will be back in full stride to lead the River Park Firecracker Parade. The River Park Fourth of July Festival will



immediately follow the parades at Glenn Hall Park.

The Classic Car Parade participants who would like to attend the Festival and display their vehicles should park

in the Glenn Hall Park parking lot. Only classic cars will be allowed to park in the parking lot.

Children and their families participating in the Firecracker Parade will need to turn right onto Sandburg Drive when approaching the park and enter the park at the Redwood Grove. All bicycles, scooters, and wagons will need to park in the designated area behind the oversized inflatable slide. There will be two areas marked off with stanchions, one area for kids' bicycles, scooters and wagons participating in the Decorated Bike Contest and another area for general parking.

The levee construction access road will still be in place at the park in July. Thus, the food trucks will line up in front of the tennis courts along Sandburg Drive.

The RPNA includes a variety of entertainment and activities for all ages and abilities during the Festival. The RPMM will provide a brief concert at



(con't on page 2)

Upcoming Events...

RPNA Board meetings are back IN PERSON! On the third Thursday of every month, starting at 7:30 pm., at the Fremont Presbyterian Church. Meetings are held year round (excluding December).

For updates:
www.riverparksacramento.org

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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.

July 4th

(con't from page 1)

the park for attendees as they gather. Home Before Dark, a favorite local classic rock band will play during the Festival.

Tickets for the Kids Carnival can be purchased at the Kids Carnival Wristband Sales tent, which will be located near the bandstand. Tickets will be \$7 each with a wristband provided at the time of purchase. Tickets can be purchased with cash or a credit/debit card. Children will be required to wear wristbands to participate in all Kids Carnival games and activities.



The Fourth of July Festival Chalk Art Gallery will be held July 1st through July 4th. Participants can pick up chalk on July 1st through July 3rd in front of the River Park Mothers' Club playground in Glenn Hall Park, the Shelley Hescock bench in front of Caleb Greenwood Elementary School, and in front of Ciavarella Field. Chalk will be also provided at the Kids Carnival Wristband Sales tent on July 4th.

As the national cost of living increases, our Fourth of July festivities cost increases. If you, your family, and friends enjoy our annual event, please consider making a monetary donation to ensure a memorable Fourth of July in River Park. Donations may be made at rpna.wildapricot.org/Donate. (Please be sure to scroll down and state that your donation is being made in support of the River Park Fourth of July Parades and Festival). Your contribution is needed and greatly appreciated.

Event volunteer sign-ups will begin June 1st. Volunteer duties with time frames will be posted on the RPNA website at www.riverparksacramento.org (Click on its web page dedicated to the River Park Fourth of July Parades and Festival 2025). To volunteer, send an email to Lisacirill@gmail.com with the subject line "Fourth of July 2025 Volunteer." In the body of the email specify what duty you would like to perform and include your phone number. Being a volunteer is a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and support our community.



More specifics and parade route maps for the River Park Fourth of July Parades and Festival will be posted in early June on the RPNA website mentioned above. ■

2025 Food Truck Mania! New Dates

by Karla J. Mendoza

RPNA is announcing new dates for Food Truck Mania at Glenn Hall Park. The event will now take place on the third Friday of each month. Please update your calendars to reflect new dates as follows, **June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, and October 17**. Come enjoy dinner al fresco with 4-5 food trucks, plus a musical guest, from 5-8 pm Thank you to our amazing and accommodating partner SatcoMoFo! The schedule of participating food trucks is available at https://sactomof.com/new-event-detail/?event_id=MjUzMDAw



River Park Marching Musicians

are looking for volunteers to get into formation.



Come join the River Park Marching Musicians for their second season. In addition to our July 4th parade and park concert, this year we are excited to add a performance on June 13th at Glenn Hall Park for the River Park “Food Truck Mania” event.

Here are the details to “Get into Step with Us”:

- Musicians of all ages from the greater Sacramento area are welcome. All members must read music.
- All brass, woodwinds, percussion and “marching violins” are invited.
- No registration fees. Sheet music will be provided at no cost.
- Music and Marching rehearsals in May and June at Fremont Presbyterian Church.
- Performance date is July 4th, 2025.
- The mission of the Marching Musicians is to provide a fun and positive music experience in a welcoming atmosphere.
- Contact Kevin Glaser for questions and to be included in future communications. Email or call kzglaser@gmail.com / 916-397-1473. Please provide your name and the instrument you play.



River Park July 4th, 2025 Family Festivities:

- Parade
- Live Music
- Food Trucks
- Classic Cars
- Carnival and Games



The Buffalo Chips Running Club is looking forward to working with the River Park Neighborhood Association and the members of the community as we prepare for our summer 2025 runs. The events to be held in July and August 2025 will be featured in this article. The Buffalo Stampede, to be held in September, will be featured in the next River Park Review.

Our participants look forward every year to your enthusiastic community involvement, as your cheers and calls of encouragement along the course are a welcome part of both runs. And, as ever, if you are motivated to join us as a runner or walker, we would love to have you!

Fourth of July Free 5-Mile Run & 4-Mile Walk - Friday, July 4

7:00 am – Registration will open

7:45 am – Children’s Quarter-Mile Fun.

8:00 am – 5-Mile Race

The Buffalo Chips Running Club hosts this annual early-morning tradition in cooperation with the RPNA. Come and join hundreds of your neighbors, friends, and family members as we run and walk the five-mile course as it winds through the streets of River Park in celebration of the Fourth of July!

This year, we are adding a four-mile walking course to the event. Those who want to run can do the standard five-mile course. For everyone who wants to walk, there will be a four-mile option.

There is no fee to enter the run/walk, but we ask each participant to fill out an Entry Waiver form prior to the start of the race. These forms will be available on the morning of the race or can be filled out beforehand by going to our website at buffalochips.com/july4th.

Every year we also give our run/walk participants the opportunity to donate to a cause whose work we think is important to our community. This year, donations are being collected for the Lyme Fight Foundation. You may contribute online at lymefightfoundation.org/donate/ or you can

bring cash or check on race day. The Lyme Fight Foundation will have a table and drop box at the event.

So, get a running start to the day as we come together to Let Freedom Ring!

Susan B Anthony Women’s 5-K Run/Walk - Saturday, August 2

7:45 am – Elizabeth Cady Stanton Kids’ 1/2-Mile Run

8:05 am – Susan B Anthony 5-K Run

9:30 am – course closes

This all-women’s race attracts approximately 350 women runners. 5-K participants will receive a women’s cut tech top and post-race refreshments. Awards include handmade medals, Baker Family Wines, and Coffee Works coffee beans.

We would love to have the women of River Park sign up for the Susan B! Registration is \$40. Scan the QR code below to register and use the coupon code RPSB25 to receive a \$5 discount on registration. Students 22 years of age and younger can register for \$25 through race day.

The Buffalo Chips hosts a women-only race so that a woman can experience the thrill of being first across the line. Period. For women who thrive on competition, having only women within striking distance can inspire them to dig just a bit deeper and try and pass that woman ahead of her—versus the inner voice that says “I can’t beat a guy anyway” when things get hard. For non-competitive runners and first timers, a smaller field consisting of only women can feel less intimidating than a large mixed-sex race. This is also a great event to come out and walk with friends and soak up the atmosphere.

The kids 1/2-mile run is a great way for the little ones to get out and experience the fun of running. After some warmup exercises, they will run 1/4-mile out past the playground and back, get a medal, and a treat. They can then jump around in the bounce house.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY 5K

Race Day Morning

We aim to provide as little disruption to the neighborhood as possible.

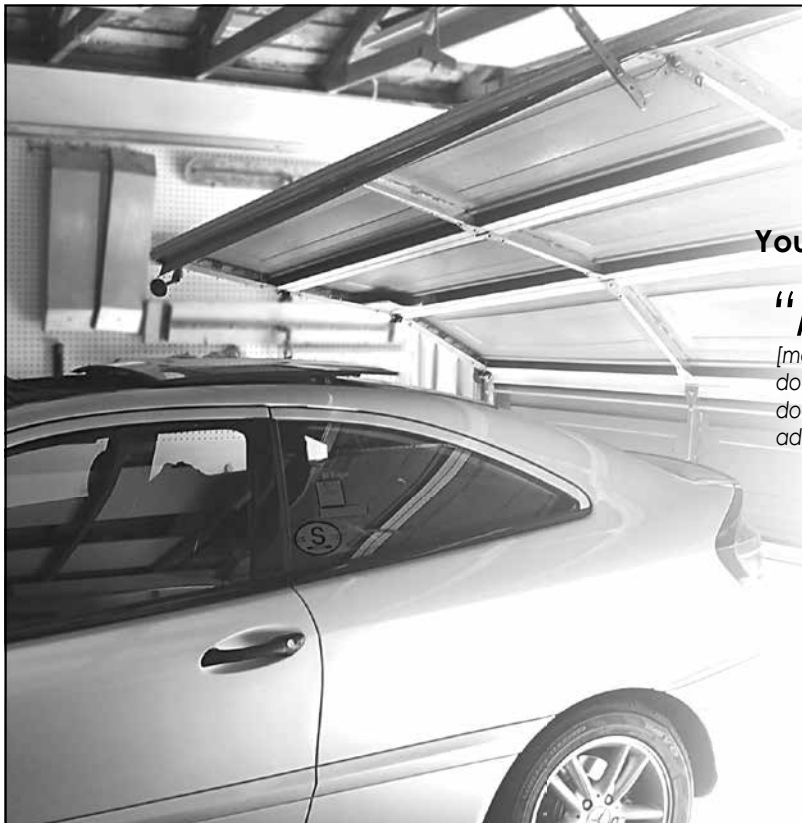
Two weeks prior to the race, signs will be posted to remind everyone of the race date and time. Although there will be some traffic delays throughout race morning, there will be no hard street closures. Maps have been provided for your information.

Parking adjacent to the park will be limited starting at 5:30 am for set-up and activities. Traffic will be limited to one lane on Sandburg Drive at Glenn Hall Park around the finish line from 7:45 - 9:00 am. For the rest of the course, City police officers will stop traffic at major intersections, and Buffalo Chip volunteers with vests and flags will be at other intersections to ensure runner safety and allow drivers to move along as quickly as possible.

We just ask that you look carefully when you back out of your driveway that morning!



NOTES:
1. The kid's 1/2 mile fun run is not shown on this map. This is an out-and-back course that starts at the 5k finish line. The kids will head North-West down Sandburg drive and turn around near 5339 Sandburg Drive.



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- Wesley S., Sacramento



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Roger and Scott Hackney are putting together an historical calendar of River Park. So, of course, I wanted to meet Roger and talk about this exciting project. We met at Tupelo's. What follows is a very abridged account of our conversation.



Roger pulled out a photograph of an artist's impression of what would one day be our River Park neighborhood. He told me that when planners envisioned River Park, on clear days, "you could actually see the Sierra. You could look across and you'd see the railroad track as clear as day. It would be right there, because there was nothing here." Hard to imagine that emptiness while we were sitting in the middle of Tupelo's.



Tupelo's was bustling with students and neighbors; we were lucky to have nabbed a table. I stared at the photograph. It is River Park. And yet it isn't. The rendering imagines a development in the middle of an empty plain. But I guess that shouldn't be surprising. America and California were changing in the late 1940s. World War II had ended. Germany and Japan had surrendered. The GI bill was enshrined into law and World War II veterans were coming home, ready to start their lives and families. River Park was built for them.

River Park's developers bought the land that once housed the famous Smith's Pomological Garden and transformed it into our neighborhood. Roger told me that Anthony Preston Smith bought the land directly from Sutter, although he may not have been the only one to whom Sutter sold the land that would one day be our

River Park. According to Andrew McLeod, Samuel Norris purchased this same land from John Sutter. He planned to develop a town just upstream of here called "Norristown."

Roger took out another photograph, showing the Guy West Bridge being built. I could see the old wooden bridge on a completely different alignment in the photo. I saw evidence of the ferries that used to crisscross the American River, transporting livestock, horses, and goods. I shook my head, and Roger told me that to this day when you walk across the Guy West Bridge, "you can look down and see the concrete piers that were demolished."



Another photo is of a newspaper clipping announcing that Glenn Hall of San Francisco was hired as City Planning Engineer. Roger told me that River Park looks and feels the way it does thanks to some of the best planners in the country – people like Glenn Hall and Will Norris.

But hasn't River Park changed at all? I wonder. Roger assured me it hasn't. It's still a neighborhood; the sort of place where people will go out of their way to greet a man they see often. Roger doesn't live in River Park, but his son does, so he walks along the levee often from his home in Campus Commons to his son's abode in River Park. "People actually cross the street and say, 'Hey, how are you?'" And that, as far as he can tell, has always been the River Park spirit.

I suspect that if it had been otherwise, River Park would have flooded. It didn't because the farmers who lived here back in the day came together to build a makeshift levee. They weren't engineers but they kept our neighborhood safe. In the 1960s, our neighborhood got real protection but before that it was neighbors helping neighbors. Just as today.

Roger should know. He's lived in Sacramento for about 50 years. He started researching the various neighborhoods' histories when his son started asking him questions about the legendary nine-hole golf course in Sacramento.

Roger didn't know anything about it but decided to investigate for his son's sake. That one question led him to a photograph of a nine-hole golf course called "New Golf Links" on 46th and J Streets. The photo shows Mrs. Day and Mrs. Pommer golfing while their husbands look on. And the photo, in turn, led him to the many histories of Sacramento's neighborhoods. Which in turn led him to creating calendars for each neighborhood, showcasing their unique stories. It's something he and his son work on together. Right now, they are working on a calendar showing River Park's story.

The calendars will be free. You just have to reach out and let Scott Hackney know that you want one, and they will drop it off on your front porch. Scott's e-mail is scott.t.hackney@gmail.com.

Roger hopes they will be ready in the fall. Watch this space.



Photos provided by Scott Hackney, RP resident



THE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY
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by Inna Tysoe

Scottish Rite Center June - August Events

The River Park Review thanks Jim Gray at the Scottish Rite Center for providing this schedule of events at the Center in June, July and August.

June

Kiwanis Art Fiesta	6/7-6/8
Cruise Around the World	6/19
Sinister Creature Con	6/21-6/22
Italian Hot Rod Show	6/28

July

UC Davis MIND Institute	7/25
-------------------------	------

August

Third Gem Faire	8/1
Comic Verse	8/9-8/10
Off to the Races, Art Run	8/14
Cuppy Creativity Convention	8/26



6/7/25 East Portal Park
 6/14/25 Bertha Henschel Park
 6/21/25 McKinley Park
 6/28/25 Glenn Hall Park

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MARSHMALLOW & SAUSAGE

Marshmallow (blue collar) and Sausage (orange collar), Cavapoo brothers, moved into the River Park neighborhood in August 2024.

They enjoy chewing on the sprinklers, jumping over the new fencing put in to prevent them from going into the flower beds, pooping on the cement (even though there is a beautiful green lawn for them to use), and sleeping soundly in their kennels at night.

Aside from their naughty tendencies, they have brought much joy and entertainment to our family. Please say hello if you see them being walked in the neighborhood.

~ Jocelyn Henderson



River Park Garden Club Update

by Ron McCormack



Danger lurks! Yes, even in the garden.

River Park neighbor and master gardener Anna Symkowick-Rose will present on safety in the garden, from lurking baby rattlers to safely handling pesticides and herbicides. The event will take place on Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 PM. We meet at Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. Bring your own supper. Beverages and desserts will be included. The evening will end around 8:30 PM.

This is the final meeting of the season. Let's make it a good turnout. We will install new officers for next season, which will start in September.

River Park Mothers' Club

by Rosemary Colgrove

It has been a busy spring for the River Park Mothers' Club! We held the annual Easter Egg Hunt, a favorite event among families, which brought 145 people out to Glenn Hall Park for egg-hunting fun and meet-and-greets with the Easter Bunny. In honor of Earth Day, club members and kiddos gathered near Paradise Beach for a river clean-up, helping prepare for a summer full of fun for all River Park families.

While many of our events are for the whole family, some are just for the moms! Our recent craft night allowed club moms to gather and relax while working on various creative projects, such as knitting and water-color painting.

As summer quickly approaches, we are excited for some of our key events. For 4th of July fun, we will host bike/scooter decorating for the Firecracker Parade, and we will also help with the festival activities at Glenn Hall Park.

Later in the summer, as the heat really sets in, we will gather at Glenn Hall Pool for a family swim day (and popsicles, of course!). And no River Park summer would be complete without a Paradise Beach hangout.

If you would like to learn more about how to connect with other mothers in the neighborhood and join in some fun activities, please visit <https://riverparkmothersclub.com/>.



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RP Garden Tour

A Sacramento drizzle did not deter visitors from coming to the River Park Garden Club's fifth annual neighborhood garden tour, "Special Garden Spaces," on April 26. Five rain-glistened gardens awaited the intrepid garden lovers. Dozens of club members also braved the rain as they hosted in each garden, sold tickets, and directed traffic.



Two of the gardens on the tour reflected the enthusiastic, vigorous, and very talented gardening skills of their owners. Gardens do not happen overnight, and these took 16 and 20 years to develop into large areas for edibles, entertaining, and experimenting. They were filled with plants and art. The joy of gardening was readily apparent.

Another garden offered an interpretation of a spare California mid-century modern style, reflecting the owners' home, with fruit trees, topiary, roses, rocks, a free-standing deck, and even a large mission-style pizza oven built by the owner, plus a valuable shaded seating area.

Centered around a huge and mature tree, another of the gardens featured clever container



garden spots for drought-tolerant succulents among driftwood and carefully placed rocks. Two small houses in the back corners provided a charming party room and well camouflaged garden equipment storage. Lawn games are possible on the rambling lawn under the big tree.

The garden of a family who loves to entertain featured a free-form pool with a rock waterfall, bordered by a tall hedge of podocarpus trees for elegant seclusion from neighbors, plus plenty of seating and outdoor dining spaces. Added raised beds for veggies and herbs, a two-story chicken coop with sociable residents, and trellised climbing plants rounded out this beautiful garden.

Nearly 200 visitors braved the weather with observations, such as "I wouldn't miss this tour because it is always so friendly..." and "We always learn something new to incorporate into our garden!"



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River Park Soccer Club

by Theresa Martinez

Last Chance for Registration for Under 6 !!!

We are still accepting U6 registrations for 4- and 5-year-olds. Our season runs from August to November. It's a great way for kids to run around, make friends, and practice teamwork! Email registrar@riverparksoccer.com to register your U6 child. For all other ages, we may accept a waitlist, depending on team sizes.

July 4 - Soccer Darts and Gear Swap

Check out our River Park Soccer Tent and play Soccer Darts at the July 4th Festival! Do you have cleats, shin guards, or jerseys that don't fit anymore? Families are welcome to donate any old gear and get sized-up and ready for this upcoming season!

Referee & Game Monitor Program

This is a great opportunity for teens and young adults ages 13+ to improve their technical soccer knowledge and gain leadership skills! Games are paid, and this community involvement looks great on college applications. For more information, please contact referees@riverparksoccer.com.

Articles for the Review...

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

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 Questions? contact Janet Mason at janet@ideasbydesign-graphics.com

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Dear Neighbors:

The River Park Neighborhood Association is 554 strong. Let's grow our membership together.

River Park's beloved traditions—such as our spectacular 4th of July celebration and festive Food Truck Fridays—exist because neighbors like you choose to support them. While RPNA is committed to keeping these events going, growing our membership helps us enhance what we love, expand programming for all ages, and secure our community's future for years to come.

Why your membership matters:

- Only one in three households contributes to are currently supportive with an active membership
- Membership dues, just \$25 per year—represent 90% of our event funding
- Sponsors and ads help, but neighbors are the foundation

Three easy ways to join:

- Scan the QR code below
- Visit: <https://rpna.wildapricot.org/join-us>
- Mail: RPNA, P.O. Box 19866, Sacramento, CA 95819

“My husband and I renew our RPNA membership annually to ensure RPNA has sufficient funds to provide its many cherished community events, neighborhood improvements, Neighborhood Watch program, and the River Park Review. It is a small price to pay each year for the wonderful benefits we enjoy as River Park Residents.”

– Lisa Ciril, RPNA member since 1985

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Glenn Hall Pool

by Karla J. Mendoza

The City of Sacramento will open Glenn Hall Pool for recreational swimming on June 14.

Admission, payable only by cash:

- Adults – \$5
- Children (ages 2-17) – \$3



Summer hours, 6/14-8/17

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Saturday & Sunday – 1 to 5 pm
- Monday & Friday – closed

For more information, including pool rules and swimming lessons for kids, please visit:

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(This is a continuation of an article published in the February issue of RPR. The complete article, with pictures, can be obtained by emailing: rcvincent01@gmail.com.)

A Little Civilization

Sacramento was a rough-and-ready place in 1849, but a few civilized amenities (of a sort) did appear. One was the first real hotel, the City Hotel, on Front Street, two doors north of the Eagle Theater. Three stories tall, it was built by Sam Brannan with lumber that Captain Sutter had intended for a grist mill on the site of today's California State University.

Sacramento celebrated the opening of the City Hotel with a grand ball on July 4, 1849. Formal dress (swallow-tail coats) was required. It was an astounding event given not just the frontier conditions of northern California at the time, but also the great scarcity of women north of Monterey. The impresarios of the event scoured every settlement within 50 miles for female attendees, of whom 18 were brought here with free admission. Two hundred men attended the event. Every male celebrant paid two ounces of gold (worth \$32 at the time) for some food, liquor, and the privilege of a few turns on the floor with one of the ladies. (It is not clear that they were all "ladies," but one attendee noted that they were "not all Amazons.")

The original Eagle Theater was another early amenity. The first theatrical performance "Bandit Chief or the Forest Spectre, occurred on October 18, 1849. According to the Placer Times:

"This house opened to a full, and we may add, fashionable house, for the dress circle was graced by quite a number of fine-looking, well-costumed ladies, the sight of whom is revivifying. Of the performance, we have no room to speak in detail, nor point out many imperfections which, no doubt, will be corrected after a few representations."

A Free-Wheeling Society

The gold rush attracted many lowlifes, ruffians, and outright criminals. But most of the immigrants came from ordinary walks of life and backgrounds wherein they had been steeped in Puritan-derived moral precepts such as the

evils of drinking, gambling, and pleasures of the flesh. However, California was 2000 miles and six months from the influences of family, church, and community. It was a brand-new society with no traditional institutions (or elders) to enforce the old social rules. There was great freedom to do as one pleased. And many did just that. After all, this was the great adventure of their lives!

Reported 49er William Swain in a letter to home in Buffalo, NY:

"Last fall I was proud of the miners as a body, both for their honesty and their sobriety, but the rapidity with which they have retrograded only proves more clearly the necessity of religious restraint and the great influence of well-organized and moral society. Drinking has become very prevalent, swearing a habitual custom, and gambling has no equal in the annals of history. ...The miner has not the society of the home circle to cheer and enliven him. He has no longer the friends, the innocent recreations to which he has been accustomed.

In the first published history of Sacramento, Dr. John F. Morse wrote about the Round Tent Saloon on J St. between Front St. and 2nd St. :

"It would be impossible to describe the scenes which this tent ... presented. ... Nothing short of the sketching powers of a Cruikshank could have exhibited its naked, unmasked depravity.

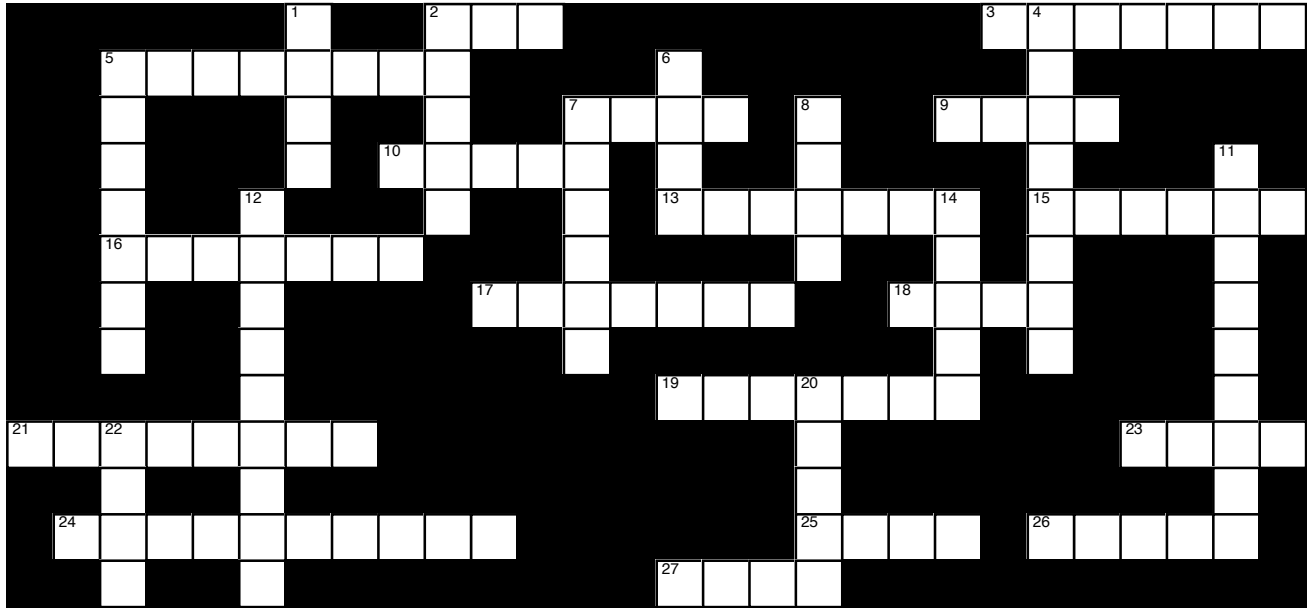
"The toilers of the country, including traders, mechanics, miners and speculators, lawyers, doctors, and ministers, concentrated at this gambling focus like flying insects around a lighted candle at night; and like such insects seldom left the delusive glare until scorched and consumed by the watch-fires of destruction.

"... Every saloon, every table devoted to betting contingencies was literally crowded, and sometimes so completely overwhelmed as to make it physically dangerous to be even a spectator of the scenes. Not one man in ten, if one in twenty, either by his absence or denunciation, condemned the universal mania for gambling which swept the country. "

Early History of Sacramento

(con't on page 16)

River Park Crossword



Across

2. The Classic ____ Parade is a time-honored part of our Fourth of July celebrations.
3. The ____ primrose grows along the American River.
5. John Sutter called Sacramento New ____
7. The River Park shopping center is home to various businesses, among them an Italian, a Mexican-inspired and a ____ restaurant.
9. Glenn Hall was the ____ Planning Engineer.
10. Roger Hackney tells me that before engineers designed the flood control system we have today, farmers living in what is now River Park built their own ____
13. The Falco sparverius or the American ____ is native to the American River.
15. The RPNA publishes a neighborhood newsletter called the River Park ____
16. ____ Native Americans used to live along the American River.
17. Food Truck ____ are a beloved community event in River Park.
18. Anthony Preston Smith and Samuel Norris may have purchased the same land (on which our River Park now stands) from ____ Sutter.
19. Yellow-billed ____ that are found only in the Central Valley are common along the American River.
21. Block ____ deliver the River Park Review to neighbors' front doors.
23. Glenn Hall ____ opens for recreational swimming on June 14.
24. The ____ Arboretum is home to approximately 1,300 species of trees, shrubs, and perennials.
25. Every June, we celebrate music with ____ in the Park.
26. Buffalo ____ Running Club sponsors many runs in our community.
27. It's almost time for River Park's annual Fourth of ____ parade.

Down

1. Before the Guy ____ Bridge, an old wooden bridge on a completely different alignment allowed livestock and people to cross the American River.
2. The ____ Greenwood Elementary school educates many of our neighborhood's children.
4. River Park was built for WWII ____ coming home.
5. Roger and Scott ____ are creating an historical calendar of River Park.
6. The River ____ Apartments are on 5483 Carlson Drive.
7. These days, Glenn Hall Park contains a pool, ____ court, soccer field and a children's playground.
8. ____ Court was named after the daughter of Moddison, one of River Park's developers; not the woman who in the Bible tells Naomi "Whither thou goest, I will go."
11. Most people who know River Park assure me it hasn't changed; it's still a place where ____ know and help each other.
12. Many of our streets are named after River Park's developers and their ____.
14. Sea ____ have been spotted in the American River, drawn here no doubt by the Chinook salmon.
20. The Eschscholzia californica or the California ____ is native to the American River and now is a great time to see California's state flower.
22. Near the Guy West Bridge, there is a monument marking the Five-Mile House-Overland ____ Express Route in California once stood.

Crossword Key will be posted on the website

Follow RPNA on Facebook and Instagram!



The Creation of Civic Government

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. Many desperately ill immigrants were abandoned by their companions as the latter rushed toward the mines and expected wealth. As a result, these ill men 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.

So, Sacramento had a government; but, as in many early California communities, civil authority sometimes took back-seat to “Judge Lynch.”

In 1850, a gambler shot dead a merchant who was trying to break up a fight. The killer was locked up by the sheriff. He was tried in absentia by jury set up by a 2,000-strong vigilante group and sentenced to death. The mob stormed the jail at 2nd and J,

broke down the door, overwhelmed the sheriff and his posse, dragged the killer out to 6th and K, and hanged him on the spot.

In 1851, the rampant crime and corruption in San Francisco induced the formation of a Committee of Vigilance in that city. Those vigilantes exiled many of San Francisco’s worst actors to Sacramento. Soon, Sacramento had its own crime wave which the city authorities could not control. (For one thing, they lacked a secure jail.) So, 200 Sacramentans formed their own Committee of Vigilance.

On July 9th, four of the expelled San Franciscans assaulted a man at 4th and L Streets and robbed him of \$250 in gold. They were tried in the regular court, found guilty, and sentenced to hang on August 30. However, Governor McDougal had granted one man a reprieve until September 19.

Believing that the reprieve was just the first step to a pardon, a mob lynched the reprieved convict immediately after the legally conducted executions. Then, the Committee of Vigilance drew up a resolution demanding the resignation of Governor McDougal, charging that he had acted contrary to the desire of the community. ■

Next installment: Floods, Riot, and Cholera

River Park Recommends: Handymen & Electricians

by Inna Tysoe

These recommendations appeared on the River Park Facebook page. They do not represent River Park Review’s endorsement of any company or service; they are simply the recommendations that neighbors shared with one another.

The recommendations below, collated from the Sacramento River Park Group on Facebook and from Nextdoor, do not represent River Park Review’s endorsement of any company or individual. They are simply the businesses and individuals our neighbors have recommended.

If you would like to see a deserving business or individual mentioned in “River Park Recommends,” please respond to a Facebook or Nextdoor thread and share your positive experiences.

There are times when you need something around the house fixed but the job is not so big that you need to hire a contractor. What you really want is a handyman. These are the handymen our community recommends:

- Handy Firefighter Construction. They can be reached at 530.308.9058
- NorCal Handyman. They can be reached at 916.625.6467
- Nolan Johnston. He can be reached at 916.835.0871
- Shane at Quality Electric. He can be reached at 916-706-2165