



Hollywood Park Bookstore Feels Like Home

PAGE 2

Remembering All of Them on Memorial Day



Land Park News

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SEE INSIDE

ELKS 6 HOSTS BRIDGEWAY CHOIR GROUP



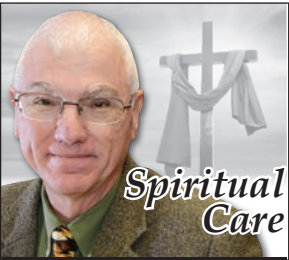
PAGE 3

LAND PARK SAYS GOODBYE TO VIC'S ICON



PAGE 4

BUT FIRST, ANSWER ME THIS



PAGE 9

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Holiday Helps Us Remember the Fallen



Fire department trucks raise the American flag high at Mount Vernon Memorial Park's Memorial Day celebration. Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon Memorial Park

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As Memorial Day draws near, communities prepare to honor and commemorate the sacrifices of fallen heroes. Several events will be held throughout the Sacramento area, providing community members with ample opportunities to participate in the celebrations.

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday in May, honors service members who have died in military service to the nation, according to the Department of Defense. The

holiday has roots dating back to the post-Civil War era, when citizens would informally place spring flower memorials on the graves of fallen soldiers.

All Sacramento-area residents are invited to join in the upcoming observances at any of the following locations.

On May 27, community members will also gather at the East Lawn ceremony at 10 a.m., where attendees can gather to honor the fallen heroes of the United States Armed Forces.

The event is being hosted at multiple locations, including 9189 E.

Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove; East Lawn Sierra Hills at 5757 Greenback Lane, Sacramento; and East Lawn Memorial Park, 4300 Folsom Blvd., East Sacramento.

The Memorial Day ceremony promises to be a moving tribute where distinguished military speakers such as Bob Hilton and Gilbert Morales will take the stage, along with musician and bagpiper Liz Tubbs. Part of the program will include the Armed Forces Medley and the POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) ceremony. *Continued on Page 5*



\$3M to Fund Blight Removal

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - During the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget hearings, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved \$3,000,000 in funding, budgeted in the Neighborhood Revitalization Fund, for a Neighborhood Improvement Initiative.

The Neighborhood Improvement Initiative aims to target the elimination of blight and enhance public spaces through investments in projects improving safety and livability in underserved areas of the county, with a specific focus on Environmental Justice communities, commercial corridors and areas adjacent to vacant or blighted properties.

"I am extremely proud of this investment," said Third District Supervisor Rich Desmond. "The Neighborhood Improvement Initiative is funding projects that are really important to many of our communities and are crucial to their identity, pride and sense of place."

Said County Board of Supervisors Chair and Second District Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, "This initiative really reflects our support of the diverse needs in the county. We're not just revitalizing spaces; we're improving safety, connections and dignity in our communities."

The County Board of Supervisors directed the Office of Economic Development to conduct extensive outreach to develop a comprehensive list of potential projects for the Neighborhood Improvement Initiative. During summer and fall 2023, the Office of Economic Development, with the supervisory district offices and county Departments of Transportation and Community Development, *Continued on Page 2*

Thunderbirds Back for Airshow



The United States Air Force Thunderbirds Jet Demonstration Team returns to the California Capital Airshow by popular demand. Courtesy photo

California Capital Airshow News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG) - The United States Air Force Thunderbirds Jet Demonstration Team will

be at this year's California Capital Airshow lineup, in addition to the much-anticipated visit from the Italian Jet Team, Freccia Tricolori.

The 18th annual California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento

County in partnership with the city of Rancho Cordova, returns to Mather Airport on July 13 and 14. This event will feature an extraordinary lineup of performers, miles of ground attractions and the

return of nighttime aerial performances concluding with a massive pyro-musical fireworks show.

"To have both the Thunderbirds and Freccia Tricolori performing at the *Continued on Page 3*



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Hollywood Park Bookstore Feels Like Home



Gardening books grace the main display for spring.

Story and photos by
Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

When you enter Crawford’s Books at 5301 Freeport Blvd., bright-eyed, soft-spoken owner Sue Richards may be there to greet you. A natural “librarian” passionate about reading, her nametag states “Owner & Bookworm.” Still, Richards admitted she was a late reader: “I didn’t read much as a child, but after college, I began reading with friends. Sharing and talking about them kindled my love for books.”

The independent little bookstore is within walking distance of Richards’ Hollywood Park home. She used to visit it frequently when the Crawfords owned it, and she asked them to contact her when they were ready to sell. They did, and as of Jan. 1, 2018, she became the new owner.

Various new and used books grace the shelves as

well as colorful displays of locally made greeting cards, pins, t-shirts and book totes. Ardent book readers can quickly exchange their gently used books for credit or cash but are encouraged to take their time and browse, too.

The customer base drives the types of books Richards takes in. She makes those decisions as she goes through used books and orders new ones. When asked about the most popular topics for adults, she replied, “I have a large community of mystery readers,” herself included. Richards hosts a monthly book club called Mysteries & More. People can pick up a small calendar print-out with upcoming novels at the register. This group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. And it’s not always mysteries; some historical fiction is occasionally thrown in. Readers only need to show up to participate.

I asked about other

popular fiction, and Sue answered, “Fantasy is also huge, but there is a generational preference. Teens like dystopian stories, whereas adults tend to like spicy ‘Romantacies’ like the Sarah J. Maas Fae Series ‘A Court of Thorns and Roses.’” Fantasy readers love good world-building, and Richards’ staff member, Jude, keeps her in the know for the best stories. He also ensures the store retains a very healthy science fiction selection.

Children’s literacy is another interest, and there is a wide selection of reading materials, such as chapter books, young-adult books and Japanese manga. “Some formats are more appealing than others, so the selection is vast to inspire kids with any interests,” Richards said. When parents ask, Richards will set aside reader-friendly books for children with dyslexia and other reading challenges (dyslexia is considered a common reading disability and can be hereditary. It is how the eye transmits images and letters to the brain).

Being spring, the current store display highlights



Sue Richards stands in front of a colorful book and merchandise display at Crawford’s Books.

gardening books. Native and drought-resistant plants are trending right now, and there is a full assortment. I asked Richards if there are other hobbies folks come in to find information on. She said, “The fiber arts are experiencing a resurgence in popularity. Young adults like knitting and crocheting. So, I carry a lot of those books.” Richards continued: “Young people are also interested in sewing clothes and costumes (for cosplay). The older generation likes sewing, too, but mostly quilting.”

Jigsaw puzzles and games are also exchanged. “This started during COVID-19,” Richards explained. Neighborhood puzzlers found it a great way to pass the time at home. Games, puzzles and playing cards can be found on floor-to-ceiling shelves



Little readers can also sit and take their time deciding which books to take home at Crawford’s Books.

in the very back.

Unlike a library or typical bookstore, the shop offers moments of musical delight. In fact, a piano is front and center. Sue Richards loves music and encourages local pianists to stop by and play a few keys. Musical trios are scheduled to play on Wednesdays at noon, Thursdays at 4 p.m. and Saturdays around 1 p.m.

Crawford’s Bookstore is next to the recently closed Hollywood Hardware. Richards is personally sad about it closing; she enjoyed the staff there. The closure has also affected her business. She said, “I feel like people would make it a destination by hitting the hardware store first, then come to my store and finally walk over to Little Caesars for pizza. I have seen an impact from the store closing.”

Richards is doing a few things to remind customers

that Crawford’s is still open. She partners with other independent bookstores and hosts a Book Crawl, where readers can visit several locally owned bookshops and win raffle prizes. She said, “We have close to 80 people who do it every year and hit most of our stores.” Events are scheduled in spring and before Christmas.

The little Hollywood Park shop can be active hosting book clubs, offering puzzles and inviting musicians. Yet most of the time, it is a serene little respite from the day. The bookshelves can put customers in a calming, Zen-like state as they wander at leisure discovering the next reading adventure.

To get on the Crawford’s Books mailing list, email: sue@crawfordbooks.net. Follow on Instagram: @crawfordsbooks, and visit the website: www.CrawfordBooks.net. ★



Games and puzzles are ready to explore at Crawford’s Books.



Local pianists are encouraged to come and play the keys at Crawford’s Books.

\$3 Mil to Fund Blight Removal

Continued from Page 1
met with community partners, residents and businesses through community meetings and online engagement to gather feedback and have the public suggest projects.

County staff evaluated project feasibility and community benefits within

each supervisorial district for recommendations to receive Neighborhood Improvement Initiative funding.

On May 7, the Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of all \$3,000,000 for 12 projects, primarily within Environmental

Justice communities, commercial corridors and/or areas adjacent to vacant or blighted properties located throughout each supervisorial district.

A full report of the projects is available at www.saccounty.gov. ★

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Old Land Park



PENDING

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2786 Land Park Drive, Sacramento 95818 \$785,000



Elks 6 Hosts California Bridgeway Choir



The California Bridgeway Choir performs at Elks 6's Mother's Day concert.

Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie, Sacramento Elks 6 past exalted ruler

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Elks 6 enhanced their traditional Mother's Day tribute on Sunday, May 12, at Elks 6 Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd. As usual, all of the officers were in their tuxedos and presented the Elks traditional ceremony to mothers. Elks 6's Chaplin Shannon Lewis also had the traditional white carnation for every guest whose mother was deceased, or a red carnation if their mother was living.

Besides the Lodge officers presenting their traditional tribute to mothers, this year's program also had a special free performance by the California Bridgeway Choir from 9 to 10 a.m. An organist to accompany the choir and enhance the Lodge's tribute to mothers was greatly appreciated.

Elk 6's President Sue Hill said, "This was a touching ceremony on its own, and the audience really enjoyed it." This

free concert was open to the public in celebration of Mother's Day. Hill also noted, "The California Bridgeway Choir has performed at the State Capitol."

Hill thanked Sacramento Elks Lodge 6's event coordinator Catherine Gonzales for making the arrangements for the Bridgeway concert.

The California Bridgeway Choir had a full choir with a men's choir of 6, and a women's choir of 14. The men's choir did a rousing rendition of "Red River Valley," and the women's choir did a very moving performance of "Beautiful Dreamer."

The choir was under the direction of conductor Adagio Tao, and there was a special piano accompaniment by Alex Tao. Their finale was a partial choir of women in beautiful gowns performing "On Wings of Song."

Hill introduced Elks 6's organist Dan Baldassari, and exclaimed how proud she was that "Elks 6 Lodge has an organist for the first time in many years." In conjunction with the



The California Bridgeway Choir finale was women in beautiful gowns performing "On Wings of Song."

Lodge officers, Baldassari played six songs as part of the Elks 6's Mother Day Tribute.

They included "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

After the concert, an optional Mother's Day Brunch was available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

It was a special breakfast with an egg casserole, fried rice, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, and a ham carving station.

The breakfast, under the direction of Glen Smith, also included choices of bacon, sausage, waffles, pancakes, and French

toast. Juice and coffee were included as well. Smith said the Lodge served breakfast to over 200 members and guests.

A few members had flowers delivered to the Lodge for their mothers,



Exalted Ruler Sue Hill leads her officers into the Lodge to conduct the traditional Mother's Day ceremony.

and Smith said, "A few families brought special cakes, and the adults enjoyed the mimosas."

Elks 6's organist Dan Baldassari continued playing music during the brunch for the listening

pleasure of the mothers and their families.

Joe Di Pinto, Elks 6's oldest member at 97, said, "The music enhanced this special Sunday morning celebration, and helped stir fond memories." ★



Elks 6 officers wait to perform the traditional Mother's Day tribute.

Thunderbirds Back for Airshow

Continued from Page 1
same show is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Darcy Brewer, executive director of California Capital Airshow. "Our attendees will get to see some of the best pilots in the world fly right here in Sacramento. We hope everybody is ready for jets, jets and more jets!"

This unique show features four hours of nonstop aerial performances beginning at 6 p.m. each day. The United States Air Force Thunderbirds will kick off the event, followed by Frece Tricolori, United States Navy F-18 Super Hornet, U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning and C-17 Globemaster demo teams and an impressive roster of highly skilled civilian performers.

As the sun sets, the show will continue with maximum afterburner followed by aircraft lighting up the night sky with

pyrotechnics, walls of fire, a spectacular fireworks show and more.

Airshow tickets are on sale now at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com. Tickets are limited and selling quickly, so those hoping to attend are encouraged to purchase their tickets soon.

The California Capital Airshow's partners are Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Modern Aviation, Keurig Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Visit Rancho Cordova, Folsom Lake Dodge, Donaghy Sales, SMUD, Thunder Valley Casino Resort, Atlas Disposal, Sunbelt, Teichert, Elite Power, FOX 40, iHeart Media and UPS.

In addition, the Airshow team is grateful to a long list of committed community supporters, as well as the teams of law enforcement and emergency services that give their time and energy to keep

everyone safe.

For more information, tickets, event details and volunteer opportunities, check online at www.californiacapitalairshow.com.

About the California Capital Airshow

Established in 2004, the non-profit California Capital Airshow plans and operates the family-friendly annual event designed to honor the Sacramento region's rich aviation heritage and veterans while using the power and magic of flight to inspire young people.

The California Capital Airshow gives back to the community through scholarships, charitable group donations and exciting educational youth programming throughout the year.

For more information about the airshow, performers and discount tickets, visit the airshow's website at www.californiacapitalairshow.com. ★



The skies will light up July 13 and July 14 with performances by the top airshow performers during the annual California Capital Airshow. Courtesy photo



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Teresa Olson
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Anthony Arias, left, Beverly Boido and Craig Rutledge at LPCA's Bunny on the Green in 2023. Photo by Kristina Rogers



Craig's family shared photos honoring Craig's life as a son, father, brother and friend. Photo by Kristina Rogers



Friends wear their Vic's-sponsored jerseys in honor of Craig. Front, left to right: Allen Etner and Brenda Ray. Back, left to right: Cameron Yee, Curt Pollock and Steve Iwata. Photo by Kristina Rogers

Land Park Says Goodbye

By Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - You know Vic's Ice Cream if you grew up in Land Park. Maybe it was a first job, or you received a free kiddie scoop ticket after a good report card. Many remember devouring a raspberry ribbon cone at a Crocker Elementary event. Whatever the experience, Vic's Ice Cream is probably part of a fond Land Park memory.

New "Land Parkers" might know Vic's former owner as the "ice cream man," yet long-time residents knew Craig Rutledge as their friend and neighbor. Born and raised in Land Park, Rutledge attended McClatchy High School, played sports and worked at the ice cream store with his father, Ash. When Ash Rutledge passed in 2010, the baton was handed to Craig.

On May 10, over 150 people gathered at the Land Park outdoor amphitheater to celebrate his life. Friends and loved ones shared funny stories and reconnected with each other, which was fitting as Craig's joy was bringing people together. He loved making sure everyone had a good time. A high school friend shared the moment her date left with another girl at a party. She was crushed. Then Craig came alongside her in his Bill Murray-esque way to ask, "What's up with that?" He helped her laugh it off and gave her a ride home.

When asked who had a job at Vic's Ice Cream, over 50 guests raised their hands at the memorial. Craig made work fun, too.



Craig Rutledge smiles in 2023. Photo by Kristina Rogers

On Saturday mornings, while he and employees cleaned the shop, he'd play Name That Tune with KZAP in the background. And who could forget Vic's New Year's Day Fizz Bowl? Mike Ricci, who grew up with Craig, discussed the game among employees.

"It started in the morning with gin fizzes at a friend's house, then we'd parade over to Doc Oliver Field, and the youngsters would play baseball against the oldsters. The referees would call fake penalties and rig the game in favor of the oldsters." Ricci said, laughing, "Eventually, the youngsters caught on, but they would play anyway since it was all in good fun."

As time moved on and friends moved away, Craig continued to contribute to Land Park. I finally met the Ice Cream Man after joining the Land Park Community Association in 2019. We got to know each other quickly after the Pandemic hit, the executive board left and funds were dwindling. It was either step up or fold the organization. Beverly



Craig Rutledge, Vic's Ice Cream owner, works in his shop. Photo courtesy of Rutledge family



Friends and family gather to share stories about Craig and reconnect. Photo by Kristina Rogers

Boido and I sat down at Craig's kitchen table and agreed to stick with it. Because of his commitment, LPCA stayed afloat.

And I'm grateful he was able to see how we've recovered and thrived.

Through that experience, I witnessed his devotion to our community. Craig was Land Park's wing-man, always asking, "What can I do to help?" He stood out when he had to, but mostly gave of himself in a quiet and humble way. It wasn't even a question for him. Giving was baked into his nature.

Although we all have fond memories, Craig's loved ones knew him

best. And he was the same kind, generous man in his personal life. His sister Karen had the privilege of reminding everyone with tears in her eyes, "I'm the only one who can say he was my big brother." Their personal stories brought tears and smiles.

The memorial ended with Vic's manager Dave handing out free scoops of mint chip and raspberry ribbon to guests. Folks milled about, hugging, crying and laughing while 1970s rock played in the background. We all left thinking we knew him.

As social as he was, Craig was very private in many ways. He hired a

full-time manager to run the store in the last years. Folks saw him in the shop less as he spent more time with his sons, Matt and Jeff. He also doted over his beloved labradoodles. If there were health problems, Craig didn't speak of it as he didn't want others to worry. Life moved along, and he continued to check in and make the ice cream himself while friends stopped by to say "hi."

So, when he passed away on March 25 at the age of 73, most of us were stunned.

Craig talked about retiring but couldn't quite let go of what he loved.

Ice cream did not fully define the man, but after a lifetime, it was the most familiar way he knew how to connect with us. And Craig Rutledge's sweet, giving spirit is the legacy that graces our community today.

Matt and Jeff Rutledge are working to establish a memorial bench in William Land Park for Craig and his father, Ash. His family has set up a GoFundMe account and is working with the LPCA and Joe Flores/Parks Commissioner on this project.

To learn more about donating, go to landpark.org for updates. ★

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ABOUT TOWN

Mad Hatter’s Tea Party May 25
Join an Alice in Wonderland-style Tea Party in the Historic City Cemetery, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. May 25 at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818.
Tea and snacks will be served with a side of entertainment and games. Visitors are encouraged to dress up.
For tickets and details: www.historicoldcitycemetery.org

LPCA Community Meeting June 6
The Land Park Community Association Meeting is from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6 in Fairytale Town Story Center.
There will be a Q&A with local representatives and informational speakers. Discussions will include a talk about the Sacramento Zoo move and survey. Free raffle, snacks and community engagement. Neighbors are welcome to attend.

Land Park Volunteer Corps Gardening Days
Wear your gardening gear and join LPVC at Base Camp behind Fairytale Town’s parking lot. All ages welcome.
Volunteers receive free coffee and donuts in the morning. A hot lunch is served after work. Arrive Saturday morning for the following dates and times in 2024:
June 1, 8 a.m.

July 13, 8 a.m.
Aug. 3, 8 a.m.
Sept. 7, 8 a.m.
Oct. 5, 9 a.m.
Nov. 2, 9 a.m.
Depending on weather, dates and times may change.

Music on the Green is June 28
The band Four Barrel is set to play Music on the Green from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, June 28 at William Land Golf Course.
For details go to: www.williamlandgc.com

Trucks & Such in Garcia Bend Park
This family fun event is hosted by District 7 Councilmember Rick Jennings from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 21 and Aug. 16 in Garcia Bend Park.

District 7 Sponsors Music in the Park
Music, food trucks and fun! Sponsored by District 7 Councilmember Rick Jennings.
June 28, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Jazz in the Park @William Land Park “Panhandle”
June 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Music in the Park @William Curtis Park
July 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Jazz in July @Marriott Park
July 19, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Jazz in July @Garcia Bend Park
July 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. @Belle Cooleedge Park
July 28, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Music in the Park @Curtis Park
August 25, 6 p.m. to 8

p.m.: Music in the Park @Curtis Park

Fairytale Town Family Campout
Camp under the stars and explore Fairytale Town at night.
Campouts are for the weekends of June through August. Friday arrival at 5:30 p.m. and depart Saturday at 7 a.m. Scheduled dates: June 14, July 20 and August 9
Go to: www.fairytaletown.org for details.

Clean Our Waterways With the RCWA
The River City Waterway Alliance is a non-profit team of volunteers who clean up our natural spaces and waterways to support Sacramento’s ecosystem. Events can vary in difficulty and age requirements; review their Facebook page for event details. Email to ask questions or to be added to the mailing list: riverscitywaterwayalliance@gmail.com
Coming up Wednesday, May 22:
Arcade Creek Cleanup at Norwood (15.0), 321 Fairbanks Ave., 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Elks' Lodge Calendar of Events
Farmer’s Market, 9 am-1 pm every Saturday.
Elk’s Lodge Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am every Sunday. Bring your friends and family;

\$15 tax included. Best deal in town. Made to order Omelets or eggs any way you want.. Bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, waffles, coffee large parties should call for reservations. Guests are VERY welcome!
Water Aerobics, Monday 10 am, Wednesday 2 pm, Friday 10 am
Yoga, Monday 12 pm, Wednesday 3:30 pm. Lodge members free.
Martial Arts, Monday 5 pm
Pickleball, Mon & Wed 9 am-12 pm, Thu 4:30-7:30 pm, Sun 4-7 pm
To sign up or confirm schedule, join playtimescheduler.com
Improv Night, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm
Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 pm
See elks6.net for weekly menu.
Karaoke
Thursday 7 pm
Saturday 7:30 pm
Friday Happy Hour, Friday 4-7 pm
Line Dancing, 2nd and 4th Fridays

Sacramento Area Museums Showcase Region’s Farm-to-Fork Roots All Year Long
The Greater Sacramento region is rich with popular museums and destinations that offer diverse and enriching experiences

for individuals, families, residents, and visitors alike. Given the critically important role agriculture continues to play in the region, many local museums offer special exhibits, experiences and activations that highlight ever-enduring Farm-to-Fork connections. A sampling of some of the Farm-to-Fork offerings at local museums includes the following:
California Agriculture Museum – Woodland is home to an entire museum focused on agriculture, filled with a unique collection of harvesters, wheel and crawler-type tractors, combines, trucks, art, artifacts, rotating interactive exhibits and much more.
In all, the museum tells the history of Farm-to-Fork, dating back to the Gold Rush era and how the industry evolved from horse drawn to steam driven to fuel powered machines to harvest and transport California’s bounty.
California State Railroad Museum & Foundation – A Fruit Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum’s Roundhouse. Museum visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, “Farm to Fork: A Public History,” and learn about how refrigerated rail cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send

farm-to-fork freshness all over the country.
Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush. Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern Railroad – currently on pause due to an important rail repair project – runs on the historic Walnut Grove Branch Line.
This rail line transported pears, asparagus, celery, seeds, and other products from the Delta communities to markets nationwide.

Sacramento Children’s Museum – Young visitors hungry to learn about fresh food have a variety of options at the Children’s Museum, including at the miniature Leo’s Market and Leo’s Food Court (a miniature market of food carts), about bees and honey with the in-house beehive, and an interactive train table highlighting Sacramento’s agricultural landscape in miniature, complete with mini livestock.
Plus, the Children’s Museum will be at the Farm-to-Fork Festival (September 22-23) sharing vegetable stamp printing with visitors.
For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, visit the user-friendly website at SacMuseums.org. ★

Chu Goes Beyond the Call for Adult Protective Services

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - This month, Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) is celebrating employee, Irene Chu, as part of the video and story series “Beyond the Call: Chronicles of Compassion in Child, Family and Adult Services.”
Having started her career with the County in Child Protective Services, Irene eventually transitioned to working with older adults through Adult Protective Services (APS). Irene has over 27 years of experience working for the County. Her background in counseling helps give her a unique perspective,



Irene Chu has been working for the county for 27 years.
Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

allowing her to engage with clients and guide them through decision-making processes.
“The mission of Adult Protective Services is to protect the health and safety of older adults and dependent adults in our community in the least restrictive environment,” Irene explains. That

mission involves a delicate balance of advocating for their well-being while also respecting their autonomy and choices.
Irene wants people to know that APS operates under regulations that encourage employees to respect the rights of older adults while addressing issues such as self-neglect, which is a unique challenge.
“Self-neglect cases require a nuanced approach,” Irene said. This is because self-neglect cases highlight the complex nature of ensuring the safety of someone while still honoring their boundaries and individual agency. Self-neglect is when someone doesn’t take care of their basic needs like personal

hygiene or eating. Self-neglect can have many underlying causes including depression, isolation, or an underlying condition like undiagnosed Alzheimer’s disease. Irene said APS workers encourage clients to weigh the pros and cons to decide whether they want help for self-neglect.
“Ultimately, we let them [the client] make the decision. Because ultimately, they have to feel that they own it, they have the ownership of that choice,” Irene explains.
As a Program Planner, Irene’s job goes far beyond advocating for older and disabled adults. She helps newer staff members as they learn the ropes, provides presentations, runs statistical reports, and

writes and monitors contracts. Currently, Irene is also handling a housing project that helps shelter older adults through rehousing and homeless prevention services. The project, called HomeSafe, showcases Irene’s commitment to providing innovative solutions to address issues in her community.
Reflecting on her 27 years with the County, Irene says she is grateful for her career. These experiences helped her professionally and allowed her to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those she serves.
As Irene continues her work, she hopes sharing her story will encourage others to seek out a long-lasting career with

Sacramento County.
“I really like it so much because I really enjoy all the opportunities that I was given through the years,” Irene said.
DCFAS is proud of the dedication and passion that Irene and many other employees demonstrate. Irene is a shining example of going beyond the call, and that is why the County is happy to feature her in the ongoing video series “Beyond the Call: Chronicles of Compassion in Child, Family and Adult Services.”
Throughout the year, the County will continue to explore different roles within DCFAS and teach people about the ongoing efforts DCFAS makes to serve Sacramento County. ★

Holiday Helps Us Remember the Fallen

Continued from Page 1
Complimentary refreshments will be provided.
Other events include the Memorial Day tribute at Mount Vernon Memorial Park at 11 a.m. May 27 at 8201 Greenback Lane.
Starting at 5:30 a.m. May 27, Boy and Girl Scout troops will raise donated American flags around the park, followed by the fire department hoisting a 50-foot flag at the entrance at 10 a.m.
"On Memorial Day, it is important to stop and reflect on the American patriots who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep us free," said Mount Vernon Memorial Park’s general manager, Carol Rybolt. "I am grateful for the brave men and women who serve in the military, standing guard to protect our country and our rights. Let us honor and remember



American flags encircle Mount Vernon Memorial Park at last year’s Memorial Day celebrations. Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon Memorial Park

the California National

Guard, and a color guard from the UC Davis ROTC program. A possible fly-over, a popular attraction in previous years, is pending confirmation, adding to

the day’s magic.
The tribute concludes at noon, with the symbolic raising of the American Flag honoring the sacrifices and expressing gratitude to those who have given their lives.
The Cordova Community Council proudly presents its Memorial Day event at 10 a.m. May 27 at the Cordova High School Performing Arts Center, 2239 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova.
The theme of this year’s event is “Their Sacrifice, Our Gratitude,” encapsulating the essence of remembrance and appreciation for those who have given their lives in service to their country.
At the heart of the ceremony lies a musical tribute, featuring patriotic music performed by the Rancho Cordova River

City Concert Band.
This year holds special significance as community members together honor the 21st-Century heroes who witnessed the tragic events of 9/11 and selflessly rushed to aid those in need, many of whom did not return.
An event highlight will be the presentation by the Non Commissioned Officers Association, showcasing the “Missing Man Table.” This symbolic gesture, led by retired Air Force veteran Jim Sullivan, features a dinner table set with an empty chair, representing those who are missing or fallen.
“This is a dignified and beautiful service,” said Cordova Community Council executive director Shelly Blanchard. “All gave some and some gave all, and we are honoring that here in Rancho

Cordova.”
The 25th annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Fair Oaks Cemetery District will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on May 25, giving special recognition to the women in time of war between the American Revolutionary War and World War II. The cemetery is at 7780 Olive St., Fair Oaks.
Fair Oaks speakers include Eagle Scout Lily Rodriguez, Congressman Ami Bera and State Sen. Roger Niello.
Boy Scouts of America Troop 380 will conduct the flag ceremony; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6158 and the American Legion Post 383 will conduct the Wreath Laying Ceremony.
Tribute will also be paid to Ray Young, who founded the annual Memorial Day Ceremony in 1999. ★

Summer Events Abound in Our Neighborhoods

Measles Exposure May 6-7 at UC Davis Med Center

Dear District 7 Residents,

As the warm embrace of summer draws near, we are thrilled to announce a vibrant array of community events to brighten your days and create lasting memories.

The D7 event calendar is packed with activities tailored to all ages and interests, ensuring that everyone can participate!

Crafted with care by your District 7 City Council office and esteemed community groups like the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and the Land Park Community Association, each of these events promises fun for everyone!

We encourage you to mark your calendars and join us in celebrating the spirit of community and togetherness.

Let's make this summer one to remember, filled with laughter, friendship and endless possibilities.



These events are not just opportunities for entertainment but also chances to strengthen the bonds that unite us as neighbors and friends.

So, whether you're a long-time resident or new to our community, we invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of summer and the vibrant tapestry of our community.

Plus, a huge thank you to the community groups who are offering events in the district this summer.

June: 6/2 - Curtis Fest Artisan Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Curtis Park
6/21 - Trucks & Such, 5-8 p.m., Garcia Bend Park
6/28 - Jazz in July, 6-8 p.m., William Land Park "Panhandle"
6/30 - Music in the Park, 6-8 p.m., William Curtis Park
July: 7/4 - Pocket/Greenhaven 4th of July Parade, 10 a.m.
7/12 - Jazz in July, 6-8 p.m., Marriott Park
7/19 - Jazz in July + Trucks & Such, 5-8 p.m., Garcia Bend Park
7/26 - Jazz in July, 6-8 p.m., Belle Cooledge
7/28 - Music in the Park, 6-8 p.m., William Curtis Park
August: 8/6 - National Night Out
8/16 - Trucks & Such, 5-8 p.m., Garcia Bend Park
8/25 - Music in the Park, 6-8 p.m., William Curtis Park
September: 9/20 - Trucks & Such, 5-8 p.m., Garcia Bend Park ★

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Public Health confirms one case of measles in a child who visited the UC Davis Medical Center Emergency Department between 10 p.m. and 3:15 a.m. May 6 and between 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. May 7.

UC Davis Medical Center is contacting those who were potentially exposed in the Emergency Department during those hours. Unvaccinated persons or those with unknown vaccination status who were in the UC Davis Medical Center Emergency Department during the aforementioned periods of time are at risk of developing measles from seven to 21 days after being exposed.

Exposed individuals should review their immunization and medical records to determine if they are protected against measles. Those who have

not previously had measles or who have not received the measles immunization might not be protected from the measles virus. They should talk with a health care provider about receiving measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunization. Persons needing vaccination should call the Public Health immunization line at 916-875-7468.

Sacramento County Public Health advises residents to notify their health care providers as soon as possible about a potential exposure if they are pregnant, have an infant, have a weakened immune system and/or are not immunized regardless of vaccination history. Do not go to providers in-person or go to the emergency department for potential exposure.

Exposed individuals should also monitor themselves for illness with fever and/or an unexplained rash from seven to 21 days after their exposure (the time period when symptoms might develop); if

symptoms develop, stay at home and immediately call a healthcare provider. If individuals become ill enough that they need medical attention in person, wear a mask and inform the registration staff about possible measles exposure so that appropriate isolation can occur in the healthcare setting.

UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento County Public Health and Public Health Departments in surrounding counties are contacting identified patients to assess immunization status and provide guidance to individuals who were exposed.

People with measles are infectious from four days before to four days after the onset of the rash. Anyone diagnosed with measles or suspected of having measles should stay home for four days after the onset of the rash. However, infected people without symptoms of measles might still be able to transmit the virus. ★

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But First, Answer Me This

“First, I’m curious as to what kind of church you are running up there?” asked a caller to my church office.

His was the kind of question I get lately since returning to the pastor role.

Most often, callers are like the young mother of three who told me, “I have three churches I’m considering attending, but first I’m asking the pastors to answer some questions.”

She squashed that ordinal number “FIRST,” as if drawing a line in the theological sand.

“FIRST, does your church teach tithing?”

I assumed she knew most churches encourage donations, but not wanting to scare her off, I was slow to answer. Was she looking for a discount? Or was she searching for a rich church?

Some people call the church directly and others find me through my local



BY NORRIS BURKUS

column. Readers usually leave a voicemail, graciously giving me time to formulate an answer.

I played back a message from a man last week wanting to know how he could donate to Chispa Project. I returned the call, excited to tell him about my upcoming trip to Honduras, but he too began with a question.

FIRST, “I want to know if angels are able to speak to us.”

His challenging question made me want to ask, “Can I call a friend? Or ask the audience?” Maybe I should have said, “Yes. The angels are telling you

to donate to Chispa Project at Chispaproject.org/chaplain.”

Another man saw that I had a woman scheduled to preach while I was away.

“FIRST of all, should women really be allowed to preach in church?”

I knew he was referring to 1 Timothy 2:12: “I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet” (NIV).

Since I assumed he knew I invited the guest pastor, his question seemed more challenging than inquisitory, intoned much like the political questions I get.

“You must FIRST believe that abortion is wrong,” suggested a Pro-life advocate.

“Isn’t God against homosexuality?” was the message left in a weathered tone. “God FIRST made man and then made woman.”

“We need to FIRST

return prayer to the schools,” said one visitor who dared attend without first checking my political pedigree.

“God is on the side of Israel! Shouldn’t we all be calling for the destruction of Hamas?” asked one local pastor.

I know that many books have been written about all of these issues by good Christians on both sides. I know sincere believers can disagree about things.

But I try to discourage those seeking a binary faith of yes-and-no answers by sharing first the words from The Message in Matthew 22:36-40.

“When asked what was the FIRST and most important of all of God’s

laws, Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list.

“But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”

I know I didn’t answer most of my callers as they would have hoped. But perhaps once I’ve mastered Jesus’ list, I’ll have better responses to their questions.

Finally, my best call began last week, with “FIRST, I think your new picture makes you look

like Jean-Luc Picard.”

Of course, as a Trek fan, I knew he was referring to Patrick Stewart, the fictional captain of the USS Enterprise-D in “Star Trek: The Next Generation.”

I felt a bit affronted as Stewart is totally bald. I’m not – yet.

Should I allow this caller to make the final cut for our church membership? Stay tuned.

Readers: I return to Honduras next month to help establish the 86th library for Chispa Project. Honestly, we’ll need some big last-minute donations to fully fund this library. Give online today at Chispaproject.org/chaplain or make check to “Chispa Project.” Send to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Email comment@thechaplain.net or message at (843) 608-9715. ★

Military Personnel, Families Get in Free at Museums

Blue Star Museums News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Seven Sacramento area museums are participating in Blue Star Museums to offer free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve. This program runs from Armed Forces Day on May 18 through Labor Day on Sept. 2, 2024.

A partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America, the local museums participating in the 2024 Blue Star Museums program

include the following: Aerospace Museum of California, California Automobile Museum, California Museum, Crocker Art Museum, Fairytale Town, Sacramento Children's Museum and Sacramento History Museum.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, including Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members.

Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID

card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for complimentary entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Before planning a visit, guests are encouraged to contact the individual museums for hours of operation and note some are normally closed on Mondays and in observance of holidays such as Memorial Day and Labor Day.

For more information or a complete list of participating Blue Star museums, please visit arts.gov/initiatives/blue-star-museums.

Those interested can also sign up for emails to learn more about your Sacramento Area Museums via the local website at www.sacmuseums.org. ★

presented by **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS** and **BLUE STAR FAMILIES**

arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

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Speeding Dangers Drive Land Park Neighbors to Act

Commentary by
Michelle Bell, LPCA
vice president

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Many Land Park residents have experienced it — trying to cross Land Park Drive at busy times like rush hour and on the weekends can feel like taking your life into your own hands.

Numerous “hotspot” intersections along Land Park Drive have seen roll-overs and cars crashing into neighbor’s yards, like on March 23 at Land Park Drive and Vallejo Way (see photo). Luckily, this crash occurred early on a Saturday morning when California Middle School was closed, and no one was walking on the sidewalk or working in their yard. The driver did manage to take down the traffic signal with them, sending it crashing into a neighbor’s home.

Cars regularly speed the long, wide corridor with nothing to slow them down. Simultaneously, there’s cross traffic of bike riders and pedestrians who struggle to get through. The most dangerous is when a driver stops after a pedestrian enters the crosswalk. While there have been severe injuries, it’s only a matter of time until the next fatality along Land Park Drive happens.

Tragically, there have already been two fatalities



The intersection at Land Park Drive and 14th Avenue was the scene of a crash in September 2023. Photo by Roman Ambroselli

at Riverside Boulevard and Swanston Drive within a school zone. There have also been severe injuries for a 12-year-old cyclist and an elderly pedestrian who were hit while crossing Sutterville Road at Mead Avenue.

With the influx of new families moving into the neighborhood these preventable, dangerous issues must be addressed. The Land Park Community Association’s Traffic Safety Committee has been diligently working to document, analyze, and report these issues to the city. You may have been one of the 500 neighbors who signed a petition circulated by the committee demanding that the city study these traffic safety concerns along Land Park Drive.

After much research, the Traffic Safety Committee has learned a few things. First, the poor design of Land Park Drive itself encourages lousy driving

behavior. The street is wide, and the turn lane is abused as a passing lane. Drivers continue on a straightaway with no stops along the 0.6-mile stretch between 13th Avenue and Vallejo Way.

Second, drivers traveling south from Broadway speed past California Middle School, Holy Spirit Church, and numerous “Safe Route to School” crosswalks. Speeds often reach or exceed 45 mph as cars approach the main entrance to William Land Park at 11th Avenue. This is where the highest number of pedestrians and cyclists cross Land Park Drive.

Homes have also become victims of crashes at the intersection of 11th Avenue and Land Park Drive. Several broadside accidents have sent cars across the bike lane and sidewalk before crashing into nearby front yards and houses.

The Traffic Safety Committee reports that injury crashes along Land Park Drive have increased by 250% since 2014. Recent “traffic calming” projects like the Freeport Road Diet do not seem to have helped much. Traffic Safety Committee data shows severe accidents along Land Park Drive around 2nd, 11th, and Mead avenues, and Sutterville Road. Riverside Boulevard and Swanston Drive are also noted. The challenge is keeping traffic flowing through this key corridor at reduced speeds with new measures protecting pedestrian and bike crossings.

The city engineer conducted a warrant study measuring traffic volumes and speeds at several key intersections to see what traffic mitigations could be implemented. The conclusion was that 2nd Avenue and Land Park Drive are too close to Broadway to



A car crashed into a house on Vallejo Way and Land Park Drive on March 23. Photo courtesy of Traffic Safety Committee



There was a crash in front of California Middle School in June 2023. Photo courtesy of Traffic Safety Committee

allow for a stop sign or traffic signal. Traffic volumes crossing 11th Avenue at Land Park Drive were also too low to qualify for a stop sign. But the Traffic Safety Committee is undeterred, as they continue to meet with District 7 Councilman Rick Jennings and his team to find feasible safety solutions for the most dangerous intersections. They also continue to discuss other options like mini-roundabouts that slow down traffic as it flows through the neighborhood street.

The good news is a critical milestone has been achieved; the city has prepared preliminary plans for an improvement project focused first on the most dangerous intersections along Land Park Drive, Riverside Boulevard, and Sutterville Road. This is a mutual commitment between the Traffic Safety Committee and Rick Jennings, although

there are still challenges to securing project funding and prioritization. For instance, the city’s infrastructure budget does not include safety improvements at medium-sized crash-prone intersections for neighborhoods like Land Park.

Instead, it focuses on large-scale, multi-million-dollar transformation projects for arterial corridors identified by the Vision Zero Plan’s High Injury Network (HIN). The High Injury Network was published in 2017, which pre-dates the sharp increase in severe crashes within the Land Park neighborhood.

The Land Park Traffic Safety Committee will continue to work with the city to develop workable concepts, drive down costs, bring in outside consultation, and identify grant opportunities that will secure outside funding sources. ★

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