



Elk Grove Celebrates
Asian and Pacific
Islander Month

PAGE 3

Happy
Mother's Day!



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INSIDE

'FILL THE BOOTS FOR
BURNS' IS BACK



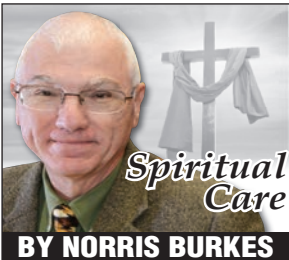
PAGE 2

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
SPRING TEA RETURNS



PAGE 12

FLYING ON A
WING AND
A PRAYER



Spiritual
Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

PAGE 5



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No Zoo for You



Rendering courtesy of City of Elk Grove/Sacramento Zoological Society

By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - A highly anticipated plan to relocate the Sacramento Zoo to Elk Grove has been shelved, prompting disappointment among city leaders and residents who had hoped the \$300 million project would bring economic and cultural benefits to Elk Grove.

The Sacramento Zoological Society announced last week it would not move forward with the relocation, citing concerns over the financial viability of the project. The decision ends a multi-year partnership with the City of Elk Grove, which had already invested approximately \$4.5 million into land acquisition and planning for the project,

according to city officials. "It was disappointing. There's no other way to say it," Councilmember Rod Brewer said. "We enthusiastically supported the project and had been working to excite the public on bringing the zoo to Elk Grove. Even with some of the rumors and financial uncertainty, I didn't expect this outcome."

The proposed relocation

was intended to address major challenges faced by the Sacramento Zoo at its current 14-acre site in William Land Park. The Elk Grove plan included a phased buildout on a 65-acre portion of a 100-acre parcel the city had purchased specifically for the project on Kammerer Road.

Phase one alone would
Continued on Page 11

Fridays in the Grove Kicks off with Line Dancing



Line-dancers shuffle in the shade during "Country in the Plaza" on May 2 in Old Elk Grove.

Story and photo
by Sean P. Thomas
City Editor

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Elk Grove's 2025 "Fridays in the Grove" series returned on May 2 with "Country in the Plaza," a lively evening of line dancing and live country music at Old Town Plaza.

The event featured performances by Dancing with Rhonda and the Nor Cal Stompers, along with music from the All Hat No Cattle Band.

Attendees were encouraged to bring low-back chairs or blankets to

enjoy the festivities comfortably and learn a few line dancing moves in between songs. Food trucks were on site as well as the free event.

Below is the schedule for the rest of the Friday in the Grove series:

Friday, May 16: Wag n' Walk: Bring your pooch out to enjoy a variety of dog-centered activities while taking a 1.6 mile walk around the District56 preserve. Pet Club will be on-site with complimentary dog-friendly goodie bags. *The Preserve at District56, 9701 Big Horn Blvd.*

Friday, June 6: Party on the Plaza: Take a trip to the not-so-distant past

when a roller rink is set up at Old Town Plaza. Equipment is provided at the all-ages event and is free to attend. Tikiz on the River will be on-site with a food truck. *Old Town Plaza, 9615 Railroad St.*

Friday, June 20: Paint at the Preserve: Lend your artistic talents at The Preserve at District56 by adding to the various rock gardens at the site. All ages are welcome while supplies last, with a limit of one to two rocks per person. No food or drinks will be available for purchase at this one, but a water fountain is on-site.

Continued on Page 2

Assistant Chief to Retire; Input Sought on Successor



By MPG Staff

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Assistant Chief of Police Paul Solomon will retire from the Elk Grove Police Department after nearly three decades of service, prompting the department to begin the process of selecting his replacement.

Community members are invited to participate in the selection process by attending a public forum from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at District 56.

The event will feature final candidates for the assistant chief position, giving residents the opportunity to meet them, ask questions and share input that will help inform the department's final decision.

According to an online job posting for the position, the assistant chief of police is expected to assume full management responsibility for all department programs, services and activities, while managing and participating in the development and administration of the department's budget. They are also responsible for forecasting funds needed for staffing, equipment and supplies and relieving the chief of police in a supervisory role for day-to-day administrative work and overseeing labor relations.

The individual is expected to have a bachelor's degree and at least six years of experience in law enforcement, with at least three of those being in an executive or command-level capacity, according to the posting.

The position pays \$202,661 to \$271,600 depending on the applicant's qualifications.

Solomon was appointed assistant chief in April 2022 following a nearly three-decade career in law enforcement. Since joining the Elk Grove Police Department in 2006, he has held leadership roles including sergeant, lieutenant and captain. Solomon has served in every service area of the department and is also the current board president and treasurer of Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

Continued on Page 10