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Historic New Helvetia housing's future in question

Site is nationally recognized in civil rights history

see page 3

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Letter to the Editor

Where are the park rangers when you need them?

Dear Editor,

On Sunday, July 26 at approximately 8 p.m. while I was riding my bicycle south on Land Park Drive, I noted, on the east side of the street, near the overgrown lily pond and the restroom, there was a large SUV, with a barbecue attached on the grass.

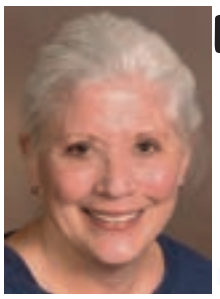
So, welcome to William Land Park. The SUV was rolling on the rock curbing, breaking it free, parking on the grass with oil, fluids, barbecue excess, and garbage – all left for others to deal with. I also rode down 13 Avenue in the panhandle on the westside of Land Park Drive and there was a large, noisy crowd, adjacent to homes. COVID was not being considered, just very loud music, loud people, lots of vehicles and people. Where are the park rangers when you need them?

Sincerely, Art Taylor

Dear Editor,

My shock and awe was so profound, it has taken me a week to compose my thoughts in response to Ms. Lynch's column titled Fantasy Islands. I found it to be a truly equal opportunity offender as no one and nothing was left out. It was among the most hostile, hate-filled and divisive pieces I have ever seen. While I am a big proponent of freedom of the press, this content is entirely inappropriate for a community newspaper (or anywhere else as far as I'm concerned). I have advertised with you, love your papers and appreciate the local news, history, and special features about people and places. If articles like this continue, you will no longer have a readership and ultimately no papers at all.

Sincerely, Jodie Hale



THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

Wait, What Day Is It?

OK, I'll admit; it's starting to get to me. This NEVER knowing what day it is.

It's a frustration, I suspect, being experienced by most whose lives revolve around their calendars: the recurring and nonrecurring 'have tos.' Work reminders. Church. School sports. Medical appointments. Anything you 'plan' for.

You knew it was Sunday, because you had church. You knew it was Monday because yesterday was Sunday. Monday through Friday was school, work or both. Notated were such things as parent-teacher conferences. You didn't have to check the calendar to know what day it was. You knew it was Saturday because yesterday was Friday. And so on.

Pre-pandemic, retirees and empty nesters already knew that a seismic shift in daily routine (no work, no kids) takes getting used to.

Thanks to the pandemic, the only certainty I'm sure of now is that the News Ledger comes in the mail on Wednesdays.

Because this again-surging pandemic terrifies me, I have been very sparing in my outings. Groceries, dog walks, get the mail. That's about it. Oh! And bugs from Petco to feed the lizards. For outings that involve my car, I write it on my kitchen chalkboard before I go to bed. Example: If I need to go to Raley's for bottled water. Raley's has good bottled water. The lizards like it. (An aside: The Ledger is sold at Raley's).

To know a specific date (which I rarely need to), it doesn't help me to glance at a calendar and go, "Oh, today's Sunday, July 26." Without church, I have no clue which day is Sunday. This week, for the first time in since Christmas, I had a benchmark to refer to. On Saturday the 25th, my son came by to pick up his diploma from UC Santa Cruz, which came in the mail on Friday. On my 'big' calendar, in the block for Saturday, July 25, I wrote down "Mike, 2 p.m." That's how I know I started writing this on Sunday. Nearly all the other blocks on my calendar are blank. So different from my life in January, before I became an 'at risk' senior.

Now, what would have been appointments are Xed out. My fear of the surging virus has prompted me to cancel all of them. Nurses' aides just picketed UC Davis Med Center about 'safety' issues. UCDMC is home to my oncologist and where I have my MRIs. But hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices … all of them … they scare me. I'm cool with virtual visits. Eventually I'll have the MRI. But not now. Not when this virulent new SARS virus is filling up the ICUs in Sacramento.

So, all this has prompted me to give 'time' itself more thought.

see This 'n' That page 10

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901 3rd Avenue | $825,000

Historic New Helvetia housing's future in question

Site is nationally recognized in civil rights history

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

A revitalization plan proposed by the city of Sacramento could lead to the demolition of decades-old Broadway structures of historic significance.

The Sacramento City Council on Tuesday, Aug. 25 will consider whether to approve the West Broadway Specific Plan, which includes the 360 units of the Alder Grove public housing complex and the New Helvetia Historic District.

This civic plan is a document designed to set policy for future development for the next 20 years, within a 292-acre area that is generally bounded by Highway 50 and Broadway on the north; Muir Way and 5th Street on the east; 4th Avenue on the south; and the Sacramento River on the west.

The specific plan is designed with the intention of improving the area's connectivity with Land Park, the Sacramento River and the central part of the city.

Within the proposal are new city streets that would run through Alder Grove – the historic New Helvetia low-income housing site – and necessitate the demolition of structures on that property, as well as displace low-income residents.

Construction on the 62 buildings of the $1 million New Helvetia housing began in 1941 on a 33-acre tract, south of Broadway, between 6th Street and 9th Street (now Muir Way).

This low-income housing project was developed as part of the United States Housing Authority.

The New Helvetia low-income structures were erected by the Campbell Construction Co. and consist of plaster interiors and brick veneer exteriors.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

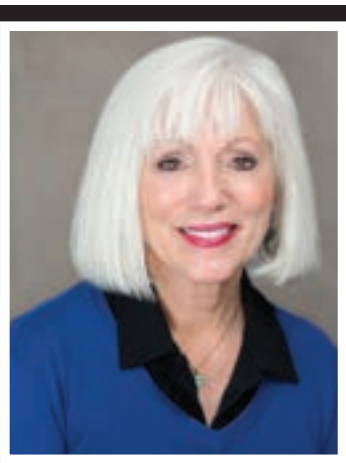
The historic New Helvetia low-income housing project is located south of Broadway, just west of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.

This housing, as well as the nearby, 391-unit Marina Vista low-income, government-owned housing project, is currently managed by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). The latter project, which sits several blocks to the southwest of Alder Grove, was built in the 1950s.

The New Helvetia Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014, is notable as the site of Sacramento's oldest public housing.

The issue of the possible demolition of historic structures within that district is of concern to various preservationists and historians, as

see Historic page 4



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Trustee is selling two parcels together. Property located at 6640 Havenside Dr and lot at 11 Tern Ct. This home is in original condition and features a large tiled entry, formal living room with fireplace and vaulted beamed ceiling. Separate formal dining room, also with fireplace, opens to yard. Spacious kitchen with corian counters, dining bar and eating area that opens to yard and the family room. Family room has fireplace and a wet bar w/ refrigerator. Three bedrooms, two baths plus a den. Oversized master bedroom with large shower and great closet space. Covered patio areas and back yard open to adjacent lot. This separate parcel lot is irregular in shape, County Records say .25 acres with partial access to lake.
6640 Havenside Dr. $995,000



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Historic:

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well as many in the African American community.

Significant to the history of New Helvetia is its connection to Nathaniel Colley, who was the first black attorney to establish a private law practice in this city and the former legal counsel of the local chapter of the NAACP – the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

Chris Lango, who produced a documentary on Colley in 2013, said that in 1951, Colley was made aware that certain, mostly black residents were being segregated in 16 units within two buildings at New Helvetia.

"Colley and a group of local citizens put pressure on the Sacramento (City) Housing Authority to end that practice," he said. "They didn't have success by putting traditional pressure on them, so they kept amping it up until Colley finally filed a lawsuit against the housing authority to end that practice. That would have been in early 1952.

"Before the case ever made it to trial or anything, the judge in that case issued an injunction that put a stop to that practice."

Lango expressed a desire to have at least a portion of the historic New Helvetia buildings preserved, as opposed to "building anew and (pretending) "that nothing ever happened there."

"What I would like to see happen is when we move forward and build new buildings that we mix the old and the new and preserve the history that was there," he said. "That was the first crack in the wall of segregation (in Sacramento), that was made right there on that site. (It) was one of the early, early victories in the civil rights movement, and so the visual evidence of that victory would be erased if those brick buildings were demolished."

In response to the West Broadway Specific Plan, the Nathaniel S. Colley Sr. Civil Rights Coalition declared its "fight to preserve New Helvetia."

"Destroying a nationally recognized site of civil rights history to create a street grid aimed at alleviating future traffic congestion caused by racially insensitive urban planning only further retrenches race relations in the city," notes the organization.

The coalition also mentions its objection to the street grid proposal, stating that the project would "cut through the heart of the historic site" and require demolition of the "entire" site.

To present an alternative plan, the coalition contacted Chris Wasney, a Bay Area architect who worked with his firm to create an alternative plan.

That plan includes preserving and modernizing 53% of the 62 historic buildings, while still meeting the density needs that were outlined in the city's draft proposal for this district.

This alternative plan also presents a proposal to establish the Nathaniel S. Colley Sr. Center, which would educate the public about the life of Colley and past and current civil rights and community issues.

Clarence Caesar, a retired state historian, said that in working with the coalition, he became troubled with the city's proposal.

"There was a design that was part of that plan that was supposed to be New Helvetia and we discovered from some (early) renderings that we saw that New Helvetia was gone," he said. "It was replaced by a very upscale, modern looking (housing development)."

Caesar also described the historic New Helvetia buildings as having architectural importance.

"(New Helvetia's architects) were four of Sacramento's top architects at that time," he said. "To give you an example of one of them, Leonard (F.) Starks was the designer of the Elks Building (at 11th and J streets), C.K. McClatchy High School (on Freeport Boulevard) and I also think he designed the Alhambra Theatre (at Alhambra Boulevard and K Street). One of the other architects (Edward F. Flanders) designed Grant High School (with Starks). This was like an all-star team."

The other architects of New Helvetia were Charles F. Dean and Harry J. Devine.

Returning to the possible demolition of the historic New Helvetia buildings, Caesar explained that the coalition approaches that issue very seriously.

"The city (said demolition) is really not on the table," he said. "We beg to differ. As long as we have no specific project identified as of yet for that property, then the concept of demolition is always on the table."

Caesar mentioned that because of this sentiment, the coalition is requesting that any reference to the word, "demolition," be removed from the language of the document.

see Helvetia page 5



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Helvetia:

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Elizabeth Boyd, a senior planner with the city, stressed that the West Broadway Specific Plan is a policy document, as opposed to a project.

"I think a lot of people have the misconception that we are planning for the demolition of the site, but that's not what a policy document does," she said. "A policy document really sets the vision for 20 years in the future.

"In the scenario where there is some sort of demolition, whether it's a partial or a full demolition, what do we expect to see? And we want to see connectivity, we to see a public park, we want to see mixed-income (housing)."

Boyd also noted that the city would "not be demolishing anything."

"That's an SHRA thing," she said.

As for potential new streets on the property, Boyd said that the city is also working to have a plan in place.

"If there are changes that would allow us to connect the streets through the site, then we want to be able to ask for those when that time comes," she said. "This document provides that basis to be able to ask for things."

If SHRA ultimately decides to seek a redevelopment of the property, they would need to undergo a national process, Boyd noted.

"They still have to go through the National Environmental (Policy) Act and the National Historic Preservation Act on those processes in order to do anything at the site," she said.

Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would have to determine the buildings to be obsolete – that the units would be more expensive to rehabilitate than to build new structures.

Boyd also mentioned that the city has concerns about the maintenance of Alder Grove.

"We just don't have the money for affordable housing that we should have, and public housing has not been supported by our federal government to the extent that it was when it was first built," she said. "It's been (nearly) 80 years and (that housing) hasn't been maintained."

However, Boyd mentioned that SHRA obtained HUD authorization for the rehabilitation of all of its public housing throughout the county.

Because of the larger sizes of Alder Grove and Marina Vista, rehabilitation of those sites would not begin until 2030.

In the meantime, the West Broadway Specific Plan would prepare the city for the possible creation of more diversified living, Boyd noted.

"The city knows that things can change over 20 years, over 10 years, so it wants to put forth what would we want to see if they would do something different than they're currently planning, which could happen, because of changes," she said.

"So, what would we like to see this area be? And we really would like to see it as more connected and mixed income and a place where we just don't have poor people. But we're still providing affordable housing, but we're also providing for it to be a mixed-income community."

Boyd additionally noted that in the event that any changes are made to the current residents' living situation, they would be provided with relocation assistance.

The City Council's Aug. 25 teleconferenced meeting will begin at 5 p.m., and will be broadcast live on Metro Cable, Channel 14, AT&T Broadband cable system and/or rebroadcast on the Saturday following the date of the meeting. Live video streams and indexed archives of meetings are available through the city's website, www.cityofsacramento.org.



Michael Stafford Sr., a 19-year resident of the Alder Grove low-income housing project, said that he supports the Nathaniel S. Colley Sr. Civil Rights Coalition's "fight to preserve New Helvetia."



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Early American carousel sculptures find new home at the Crocker



D. C. Müller & Bro. Company (active 1903–1914), Standing Deer, ca. 1908. Basswood with pigments, 54 x 69 x 11 in. Crocker Art Museum, gift of Larry and Gail Freels, 2019.94.3.

The Crocker Art Museum is delighted to welcome to its collection six hand-carved carousel animal sculptures by top makers from the Golden Age of carousels. The menagerie includes a deer, giraffe, horse, goat, bear, and greyhound, and is a generous gift from the renowned collection of the Freels Foundation.

The Golden Age of Carousels spanned the 1880s through the 1920s, when resorts and cities throughout the United States and England featured them in their amusement parks. Most carousel animals were horses and were based on the French 17th-century origins of the ride. Additional menagerie animals were later added, including lions, tigers, giraffes, deer, rabbits, goats, pigs, ostriches, bears, and dogs.

The best carousel carvers were highly trained, their work literally sculpture in motion. Today, carousel sculpture is grouped into three basic carving styles: the Philadelphia Style, the Coney Island Style, and the County Fair Style, the latter being smaller, more simply carved animals intended for traveling fairs.

The Philadelphia Style includes figures by The Dentzel Company and is generally

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Crocker:

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considered the most realistic and graceful. The Dentzel Company created the giraffe, horse, goat, and bear now in the Crocker's collection. Daniel Müller apprenticed at the Dentzel company prior to founding his own company, D.C. Müller & Bro., in 1902. Müller's training at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts is evident in the skillful carving of the deer.

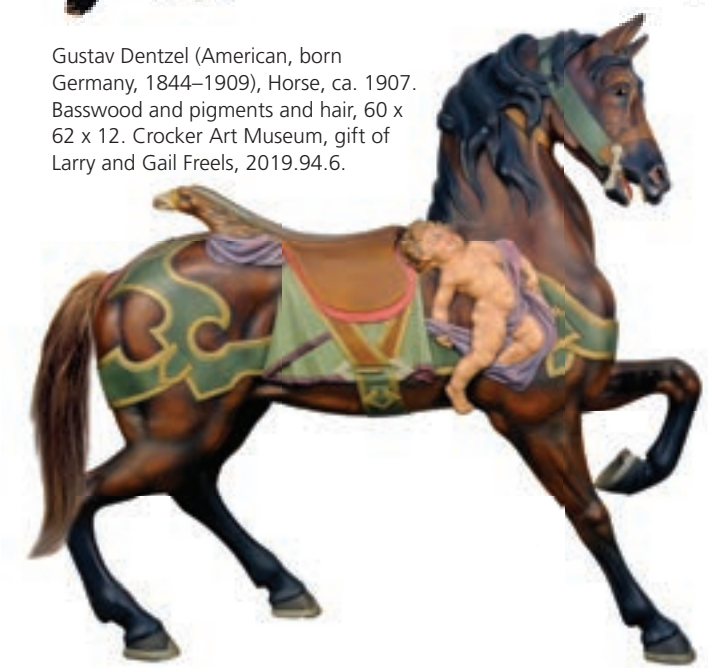
In contrast to the Philadelphia style, the Coney Island style boasted flashier decoration, including silver or gold leaf and sometimes glass jewels. This ornate style is exemplified by Charles Loof's classic greyhound.

The sculptures are now installed inside and just outside the Crocker Art Museum's Setzer Foundation Auditorium.

More information about exhibits and programs can be found at crockerart.org



Gustav Dentzel (American, born Germany, 1844–1909), Bear, ca. 1907. Basswood and pigments, 50 x 60 x 11 in. Crocker Art Museum, gift of Larry and Gail Freels, 2019.94.5.



Gustav Dentzel (American, born Germany, 1844–1909), Horse, ca. 1907. Basswood and pigments and hair, 60 x 62 x 12. Crocker Art Museum, gift of Larry and Gail Freels, 2019.94.6.



Gustav Dentzel (American, born Germany, 1844–1909), Goat, ca. 1907. Basswood and pigments, 57 x 60 x 11 in. Crocker Art Museum, gift of Larry and Gail Freels, 2019.94.4.



Charles Looff (American, born Denmark, 1852–1918), Greyhound, ca. 1896. Poplar wood with pigments, 73 x 55 x 11 in. Crocker Art Museum, gift of Larry and Gail Freels, 2019.94.2.

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The Pocket Watch

By Jeff Dominguez

Then fall, Caesar…

The passing of political firebrand Robbie Waters is a massive loss for the Greenhaven/Pocket community he led

Robbie Waters was not a man who summoned ambivalent emotions among those who knew him. It may not be a conventional observation to note in memoriam that those who counted themselves as his friends were more or less in pretty close proportion to those who… did not, but it's true. Generally, a person's feelings about Robbie were either black or white. Somehow, very few opinions were ever gray.

If he liked you, there was no better friend to have in this world. He would throw the full weight and considerable power of his standing in the community and in citywide government, including law enforcement, behind your cause, whatever it may be. And if you crossed him, he was not one to forget it. You could bet that he would not allow you to forget it, either.

He loved his city, especially his district, and he devoted tireless effort throughout his life to the betterment of both. People seemed to understand that about him—it was definitely a virtue—and he won election, and re-election, to the Sacramento City Council, for four terms in total. For 16 years, 1994-2010, he found himself perched atop a mini dynasty that recalled those old Chicago political machines, all run from his nerve center, a small office in the back of the True Value hardware store he co-owned in the Promenade shopping center.

Robbie was a legit hometown boy. He was born here in Sacramento in 1936. He attended Kit Carson Junior High and Sacramento High School. He excelled at sports and grew to be a "big fish in a small pond." And as the pond grew, so did he, in proportion, putting him in the rare category of "big fish in a big pond." After graduation from Sac High in 1954, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, and, upon his return home in 1957, he joined the Sacramento Police Department (SPD), where several chapters of his considerable legend would be written.

He climbed the ranks within the SPD like the kid who free soloed El Capitan, ascending great heights at a remarkably brisk pace, employing an occasional death-defying maneuver to get from station to station along the route. He was in charge of the Detective Bureau, served as a Lieutenant in the Homicide Division, ran Internal Affairs. He arrested a Manson-clan member who attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford in Capitol Park. In 1975, following a dramatic shooting incident at Neptune's Table in the South Hills shopping center, he was awarded the Sacramento Police Department Silver Medal of Valor.

Somewhere in all of this, he managed to earn his bachelor's degree in Criminology from Sacramento State University, and he graduated from the FBI National Academy in Advanced Criminology. People tend to think of Robbie as a man who's been handed things in life, but the almost absolute inverse is the actual truth. He worked nonstop for every accomplishment he realized. His heart pumped ambition. He inhaled opportunity and exhaled achievement. "Doing" was in his DNA. In 1982, he ran for his first elective office, Sacramento County Sheriff. And guess what: he won. He remained Sheriff until 1987.

His personal life, like his professional life, is marked by significant milestone achievements. His first personal home run came in the form of the diminutive Judie Kent, a blond girl he met on a blind date specially arranged after they'd spot-

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Pocket:

continued from page 8

ted one another at a pool party they'd attended the week before, each with other dates. Like everything else he'd ever achieved, Robbie did whatever it took to make Judie his, and after a year-long courtship, they married. "I was 20 years old, and I weighed 99 pounds," says Judie. Over the course of their marriage, she would prove to be worth her weight in gold to Robbie.

Robbie and Judie were blessed with three great children, each born with a brightness that threatened their father's considerable wattage, Dee Dee, Darren, and Danny. The Greenhaven neighborhood was more bare land than homes when Robbie took on the gargantuan task of constructing his own home—"Greenhaven 70" was the name of the development. With the help of many friends and family members, the home was finished in 1969, and the Waters moved in.

After they installed their pool, the Waters residence became a hub among the children in the neighborhood. Behind the scenes, Robbie and Judie did what they could to eke out for their kids a childhood that was as normal and idyllic as could be expected when your dad is an extremely visible public law enforcement figure, Sacramento's answer to a Clint Eastwood character, right down to the conservative politics.

Anyone who was active in any community endeavor in the Greenhaven/Pocket area was bound to cross paths with Robbie at some point. To enumerate all of his awards and accomplishments and civic memberships would be tantamount to emptying a can of alphabet soup in front of a reader. Separately, these achievements are each impressive monuments that speak volumes for his willingness to support a worthwhile cause with deeds rather than just words, for his selfless and remarkable bravery in the face of great danger, for the stunning level of proven expertise he possessed in his avocation. Collectively, they become the proverbial forest that obscures trees, a phone book of feats that simply cannot be properly appreciated when compiled into list format.

I knew Robbie because he co-owned the hardware store with my great hometown friend, Jay Weathers. Robbie always had a kind word in passing, a friendly greeting. We became forever linked in 1996, when I hatched an idea for a multi-pronged 4th of July celebration for our community—a parade, a carnival, and, eventually, an aerial fireworks display at Garcia Bend Park. It would be fashioned after the homespun Independence Day celebrations I enjoyed growing up in the Delta. It seemed to me like a natural for the Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhood.

The first thing I could think to do was to go to Robbie for help in getting my plan off the ground, so I drove over to the hardware store and found him in his "district office." He liked the idea, but he was a little skeptical about the scale I had in mind for the event. He was, af-

see Robbie page 11





This 'n' That:

continued from page 2

I'm 71. How much 'time' do I have left? Maybe a lot, if I'm careful. My grandmother lived to 98, my grandfather to 91 – despite his diabetes.

And then there's this: How much more 'time' til there's a vaccine?

Throughout recorded history (one could say, for all time), 'time' has interested essayists and poets:

Time waits for no man.

Procrastination is the thief of Time. (mom posted that on my bedroom wall)

Time flies when you're having fun.

In the nick of Time.

Once upon a time (yep, there it is again), I tried and failed to read Stephen Hawking's book "A Brief History of Time." (On its face, isn't the title an oxymoron? Time's 'history' is anything but 'brief.')

Our country's next exploration of Mars (set to land a new Mars Rover on in February 2021) will be in search of ancient life. NASA already knows the red planet wasn't always a desolate, desert-like environment. Scientists believe the few drops of liquid found trapped in Mars' ancient rocks, plus today's higher resolution Rover images, are proof the planet itself was WATERY! Rivers, lakes and stuff! If sufficient evidence exists it once had life, a manned Mars mission is in the planning. (Maybe Mars even had human life! An 'advanced' civilization. That scoffed at climate change. Just sayin.')

Well, for however long this present pandemic moment lasts, I guess all we can do is accept its 'time bandit' side effect. And meantime, hope the 'warp speed' vaccine happens in months, not years, as other nations warp right there with us. Alliances aside, whoever gets there first should, in my view, be humanitarian about it. Share it with the world, if for no other reason than to save the world's tourism and airline industries (and its restaurants).

Maybe with this pandemic God has given us some 'time' to think about what really matters. My generation was born at the close of WWII. Our parents worried about a polio pandemic. When I graduated high school (completely vaccinated and my son is, too), our class motto was: We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. Paraphrasing Einstein (the father of the atomic bomb): "If there's a World War III, the next will be fought with sticks and stones."

Henry van Dyke wrote:

TIME IS
Too Slow for those who Wait
Too Swift for those who Fear
Too Long for those who Grieve
Too Short for those who Rejoice
But for those who Love
Time is not.

Maybe our world is overdue for a global vision of prosperity. One that includes us all.

With politics so much in the news, Carol thought she'd add that she considers herself neither liberal nor conservative. She tries to be well informed when she casts her ballot (which, p.s., she does by mail), and then votes for candidates – of whichever party – and referendums that most closely mirror her own beliefs. Comments, questions? Contact Carol at carol@bogartonline.com.



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Robbie:

continued from page 9

ter all, a politician now, and he had his eye steadfastly on the big picture, on public perception, on votes. In the end, though, he ensured that I had everything I needed to pull it off.

When the event was delivered, it was extremely well received and overwhelmingly embraced by the community. He was pleased, and he wanted a larger say in related decisions. That was a source of great conflict between us. We probably disagreed on more than we agreed on, and we argued strenuously while holed up in that back office at the hardware store. But not many people ever knew that kind of tension ever existed. In public, we were all smiles, and when it really counted, he had my back, and I had his. Politically, we were opposites, but we had this common interest that bonded us and fostered a mutual respect that remains of a value to me that I can't adequately convey with mere words. And that, for me, is saying something.

This is who Robbie… was. It hurts to refer to him in past tense now. He was constantly climbing. He was no stranger to power, and he liked it, and he was good at it. He wanted to hold onto it, and he always wanted a little more. The latter of these is an exceedingly common human quality, a great thing when it's wielded by a man whose heart is in the right place. And it's a disaster when it resides in less of a man. Fortunately for all of us, Robbie was more of a man.

Robbie seemed to be the author of the philosophy, it's better to ask forgiveness than permission. In fact, he personally introduced me to that approach to getting things done in a bureaucracy. We need look no further than the local controversy that developed when he ordered "City of Trees" to be painted on the Freeport water tower for an example. That was classic Robbie. But whenever a problem in our neighborhood came up that needed to be addressed, Robbie proved himself to be indispensable. He was supremely responsive, and he followed up the issue like a dog on a bone.

In my favorite Shakespearean play, Julius Caesar, Caesar is shown to be an incredibly effective leader, and Rome thrives under his reign. He is roundly loved by all of his people, and he loves them deeply in return. His detractors, however, point to his constant desire to expand his own power. They refer to him as ambitious, an unforgivable failing for a leader in those days. The senate members do Caesar in and turn the people against him, until Mark Antony comes along and reminds everyone that Caesar's actions were always for the good of the people. We see, in brilliant oratory, how there are always two sides to a story. Human beings—even leaders, it turns out—are made in three dimensions, not one, not two. When Rome's citizens are shown all sides of Caesar's humanity, he is universally mourned.



Robbie Waters was brutally tough. He was undeniably ambitious. He was a formidable opponent to his political enemies. He could be short, blunt, uncomfortably plainspoken. He carried a grudge. And he was unapologetic regarding all of the above. But he also loved his family with all of his heart. And he loved his city. He enforced the law, and he kept us safe. He was willing to work tirelessly on behalf of a good cause. Above all, he was a relentless advocate for our community.

I encourage everyone to consider Robbie in full 3-D when thinking about his life and his legacy. You may come to bury him, but I promise you'll end up praising him.

Rest in peace, Robbie.

Jeff Dominguez is a longtime Pocket resident and former columnist for the Pocket News. He can be reached at jeff.dominguez@comcast.net.





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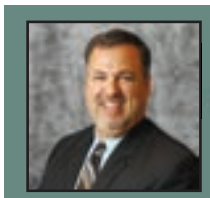








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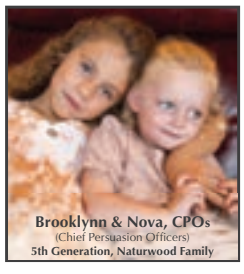
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