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Land Park News

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Land Park was once home to the 'White House'

see page 4

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Cover by:
Lance Armstrong

Del Rio Trail to be open to the public in 2023



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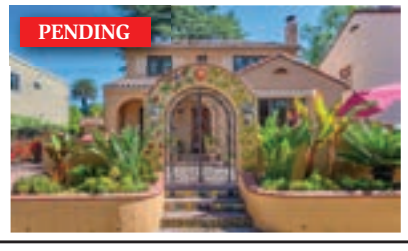
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By Monica Stark

Come 2023, a 4.5-mile rail-to-trail project known as the Del Rio Trail will be open for public use.

From South Land Park down to the Bill Conlin Sports Complex, the Del Rio Trail will facilitate a bikeable route to downtown whereby cyclists will be able to turn onto Sutterview Road and join the Sacramento River bike trail that heads north before joining the American River Bike Trail at Discovery Park.

The trail will be a regional amenity and significant addition to the City's off-street, shared-use trail network. A vital link will be created between South Sacramento and Central City, tying in the Sacramento River Parkway, Bill Conlin Sports Complex, Z'berg Park, Charlie-Jensen Park, Land Park and Miller Park along the way.

The trail is currently fully funded and is anticipated to be constructed in a single phase. Since last spring, the City of Sacramento has taken the preliminary engineering concepts approved in the environmental document and began turning them into biddable project plans for a general contractor to construct. The City also worked on the necessary permits for the project that were identified in the

see Trail page 3

Trail:

continued from page 2

environmental document. Included in the project is a proposal to widen the existing railroad overcrossing of Interstate 5 just north of Sutterville Road. According to Randolph, in order for Caltrans to approve this widening over their freeway, the City must complete a full Caltrans bridge design process which includes bridge concept review, and review of structural design findings. "This process helps to minimize construction impacts and ensure the safety of the traveling public on the interstate system", he explained.

As part of the project, the City is looking to enhance some locations on the trail that are gateways into the corridor while keeping in mind the ability to maintain these features for years to come. Features being considered at these locations include decorative paving and wayfinding.

Each road crossing was analyzed based on the volume and speed of automobile traffic and the City's pedestrian crossing guidelines. Treatments vary from location to location based on these conditions and may include curb extensions, rapid rectangular flashing beacons, and traffic signals.

This plan does not include restoring the train rail for future use. The rails that are in place now will be preserved as part of the train history of Sacramento, but not completely redone.

The rail line was developed in 1912 and helped the Delta farmers. The line started to fall into disuse during the depression, and Southern Pacific abandoned the rail line in 1978. Once it was abandoned, the state took over part of the operation. Regional Transit purchased part of the rail line as potential light rail use, but it was never used. RT has given it to the city for the Del Rio pedestrian/bike trail. An issue concerning the trail has been the use of the railroad tracks.

Overall, the project has received broad community support which has enabled the project to secure funding. Randolph explained that the project was made possible by special grant funds from the state of California to promote active transportation. These funds paid for the environmental analysis and are paying for the design of the trail. Construction funds were subsequently programmed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments as this project also fulfills the regional goal for better trail connectivity. Then, in 2019, the Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors agreed to pursue the project as a joint venture and agreed to transfer the ownership of the corridor to the City, this transaction was completed last year.

The environmental document was challenged by rail advocates who claimed, among other things, that the City inadequately evaluated the future use of the corridor for trains. The City prevailed in the lawsuit but this did delay the design.

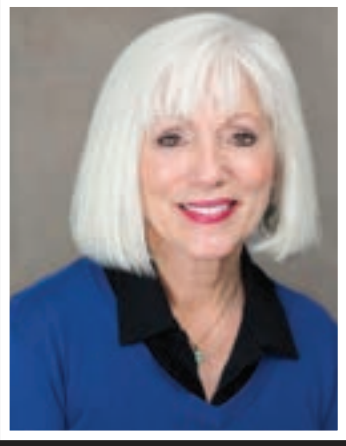
As part of the project, the City is partnering with the Sacramento Rail Foundation to evaluate opportunities to refurbish historical railroad artifacts into trail amenities, Randolph explained. "While the inclusion of these amenities may be under a separate project, the Del Rio Trail team is identifying opportunities in the corridor for these enhancements and incorporating rail themes into some of the landscape architecture. Other opportunities for projects may be evaluated after the project is built," he said.

The City is currently addressing encroachments into public property that must be reconciled for public safety and public use interests.

Residents who have been notified of these encroachments are encouraged to contact the City to discuss their options, Randolph said. "The City is committed to fairly resolving these encroachments in a manner that meets the trail's near and long-term needs, benefiting neighbors and residents around the region."

Community members are encouraged to sign up for the stakeholder database on the City's website: http://www.cityofsacramento.org/delriotrail. Any specific questions can be directed to the project manager, Adam Randolph, at arandolph@cityofsacramento.org.





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Land Park was once home to the 'White House'

Watering hole, restaurant is a predecessor of Riverside Clubhouse

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

When most people think about the White House, their thoughts center on the nation's capital: Washington, D.C. But there was once a time in history when the Land Park area was home to its own White House.

Back in the days when bars were referred to as saloons, the White House saloon was serving its patrons in a structure at the site of today's Riverside Clubhouse, at 2633 Riverside Blvd.

Research for this article shows that Sacramento's White House was in operation by at least the early 1900s.

However, Riverside Clubhouse owner Bill Crawford last week mentioned that people at his restaurant and bar told him that this site's history is much older.

"I've been told there's something in this spot, hospitality related all the way back to the 1850s, but I can't confirm that," he said. "That's just what I've been told.

"I was told it was like a stagecoach stop and then later a trolley stop when the trolley used to go up and down Riverside (Boulevard). People swear to me that they can still find the hitching post, but I don't know where that would have been."

He added that, altogether, nine people have told him that they remember the White House at that site.

Crawford also shared his thoughts on whether the structure that houses his business was the same building where the White House operated.

"It's my understanding it's the same building," he said. "It's been added onto, built out, but it's still the same, original structure," he said. "When it was redone in 2002 (at a cost of $1.3 million), it was taken completely down to the studs, and redone that way. But if you look at the old photos, the footprint is the same. It's definitely been the same building for a long, long time."

Dick Ryder, a 1947 graduate of C.K. McClatchy High School, told the Land Park News that he also believes that the current building is the old White House structure, as far is its framework.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's the same building now as it was when it was the White House," he said. "The remodeling job has redone it over, but to me, it's the same grounds, same building."

Research for this article revealed that the original White House building on Riverside Boulevard was destroyed by fire in 1940, and that another structure was built for that business in the same location.

An article in the April 20, 1940 edition of The Sacramento Bee notes: "O'Kane's White House, a cocktail lounge and restaurant, has reopened at 2633 Riverside Boulevard. Charles and Kenneth O'Kane are the proprietors. The building replaces a structure destroyed by fire several weeks ago."

Ryder mentioned that his recollections of the White House on Riverside Boulevard date back to about 1933.

"(From) my early life, it was always the White House until it became The Hereford House, I suppose," he said. "I was never in it or allowed in it. It was a bar, if I remember right."

"The White House was a good, prominent place. It wasn't quite considered that far out of town to be a roadhouse, but it probably kind of was. Of course, the streetcar went by there. My mother (Mary) worked for the state, and she would get off at 2nd Avenue (in Land Park) and walk from 2nd Avenue home."

Ryder recalled a day when he upset his father, Clark, for venturing off near the White House during his childhood.

"My dad got mad when he caught me over on Riverside (Boulevard), about equal to the White House," he said. "I wasn't snooping around or anything. I was just over that way. He didn't have much of a torture for me, but I think he slapped my hand for being that far from home."

Ryder clarified that his father was not upset that he was near a bar.

"No, it was mostly because I was so far down Riverside (Boulevard, from his home at 2800 Regina Way)," he said.

Ryder recalled another feature along the boulevard during that time: the horse riding academy of Sanford A. Woodruff (1874-1958), at 2643 Riverside Blvd.

"(The White House) was about next door to a guy who kept horses," he said. "Woodruff was his name. He was an old guy. My sister (Carolyn) was more involved and she (is nearly) four years younger than I. Whenever she was old enough, she hung around Woodruff's barn and stable and the grounds in the back."

Bill Werry, a 1954 graduate of McClatchy High, also shared his memories of the White House.

"I remember the White House, but I used to go there for lunch a lot when (the building later housed) The Hereford House. I went there for the first time probably in the late 1960s, early 1970s. I just went there for their hamburgers. They had great hamburgers.

"I probably saw the White House for the first time back when I was just a kid – 9, 10 years old – in the mid-1940s, when I used to go to Edmonds Field (at Riverside Boulevard and Broadway) to the (baseball) games. It was just a block and a half down there from Edmonds Field."

Werry, 84, eventually played professional baseball for three years in the Brooklyn Dodgers (now Los Angeles Dodgers) organization.

Among the historic documentation of the existence of the White House on Riverside Boulevard in the early 1900s is an article in the July 7, 1903 edition of The Bee.

That article mentions the White House as one of the local saloons that would be eliminat-

see White page 5

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White:

continued from page 4

ing their slot machines due to an order that was issued during the previous day for all slot machines to be removed throughout the county.

The entry for the White House reads: "White House, Riverside (Boulevard), J.W. Aherns – 'All right. I will comply.' (One machine)."

The business's location is referred to in an article in the July 23, 1909 edition of The Sacramento Union as "one block below the Y Street (today's Broadway) levee."

One trivial point about the history of the White House is it predates the founding of William Land Park and the Land Park neighborhood.

A Prohibition era article in The Bee, published on Feb. 1, 1923, describes a raid by two police detectives, Frank B. Boniface and Jesse A. Dorr, who arrested White House co-owner Edward P. Pierini for the sale of liquor and the operation of a slot machine.

The White House remained in operation until the early 1960s.

A Halloween costume party was held at the White House – then advertised as Gilliss's White House – on Oct. 29, 1960, and pianist Cap Jones entertained guests at the piano bar.

By 1961, the business was known as the New White House.

A brief summary of Uncle Tom's restaurant at 2633 Riverside Blvd. was published in the April 15, 1962 edition of The Bee. It is noted that "Tom Matranga personally supervises the famous 'suthun cookin'."

The Hereford House occupied the building from 1963 to 2001.

During its operation, The Hereford House was a popular, upper-scale dining and cocktail lounge destination that was well known for its steaks and seafood.

Originally owned by James J. Brown, Robert F. O'Brien and Rugby H. Ballard, The Hereford House was under the proprietorship of Alfred "Al" Alvernaz (1917-2008) during about its last 30 years.

The Riverside Clubhouse made its debut in 2003.

In addition to being well known in Land Park for its food and drinks, the Riverside Clubhouse is also known for its life-size cow replica that stands atop this business. It is the same cow figure that stood on the roof of The Hereford House.

Crawford mentioned that his operation of the Riverside Clubhouse has been challenging due to COVID-19 restrictions.

With the initial shutdown – so, we're talking March 18, (2020) – we went to takeout only for a while, and we lost about 85% of our sales overnight," he said. "So, we pivoted and made obvious changes to our menu. We had a hard time finding products that we could get consistently.

"We had to limit the amount of staff working, so we limited the menu and did things that traveled better and focused on takeout for a while. Then in June (2020), we were allowed to open back up, obviously with social distancing protocols in place and mask mandates and all that. We were very strict as far as sanitation protocols and making people adhere to the distancing. But that only lasted about a month before we got shut down again."

Crawford added that his business returned to only offering its takeout service until it was permitted to offer outdoor dining on this business's patio.



Lance Armstrong

Land Park's 'White House' was operating on Riverside Boulevard by at least the early 1900s. The business, which was established as a saloon and later gained longtime popularity as a restaurant and cocktail lounge, remained in operation until the early 1960s. This photograph features a vintage ashtray from that business.

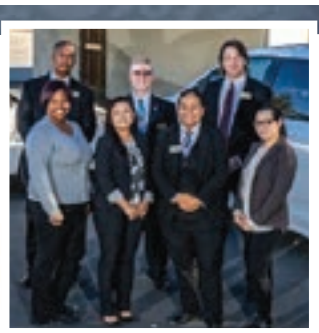
"Quite honestly, having that space got us through this (pandemic), plus having kids that will work for free," he said.

Returning to his thoughts on the building's history, Crawford exclaimed, "Land Park deserves a White House, for sure!"

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FACES & PLACES

MAY-FLOWER SACRAMENTO BIKE PARTY RIDE





Photos by Stephen Crowley

Bike Party Sacramento enthusiasts hit the pavement on Friday, May 7, at 3rd and O streets for their monthly first Friday bike ride. This month's theme was May-Flower...Ride and revelers donned flower-power hippie-era tie-dye colorful clothes and ventured through the streets of Sacramento. Future events can be found on Bike Party Sacramento on Facebook.



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Parenting During the Pandemic

By Camille Maben,
First 5 California Executive Director

This past year and a half was truly a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic upended our daily lives in ways we could not have anticipated at the start of 2020 and forced each and every one of us to adapt to a radically different world.

The First 5 Commission recognized right away the challenge the pandemic posed to families, especially those with young children and quickly authorized $5 million in emergency funding to help the hardest hit communities. The funding was used to acquire needed emergency supplies including masks for adults and children, disposable gloves, cleaning supplies, baby wipes, diapers and formula, and touchless-thermometers, which were distributed through First 5 county offices and local agencies throughout the state. The First 5 Commission recently authorized an additional 2 million in funding to continue these important efforts.

First 5 California also launched the new First 5 California Parenting Website (first5california.com), which includes extensive resources, tips and advice on parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic including how to talk with your children about it, distance learning, celebrating holidays and birthdays in ways that are safe, and more.

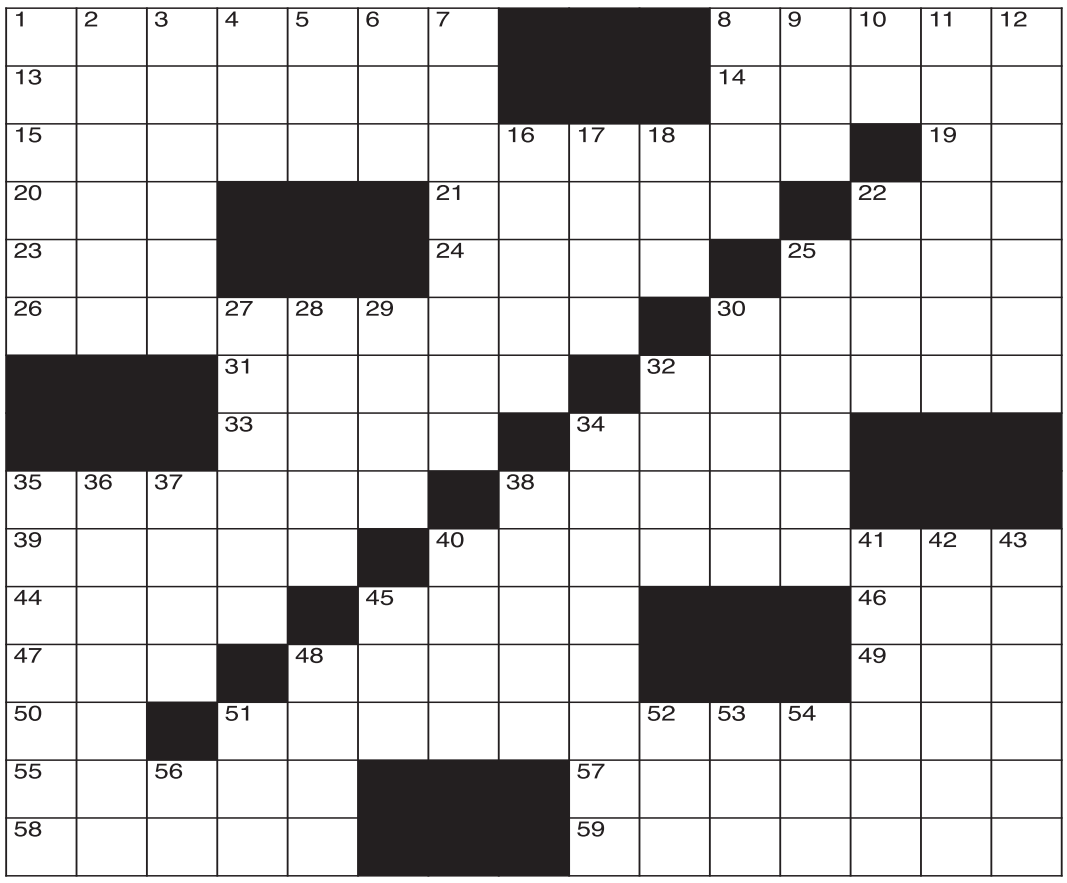
Through the website, which is available in English and Spanish, parents can access a directory of resources that can help them find food assistance, financial help, as well as information for immigrant families and those living with disabilities. They can also find the website and phone number of their local First 5 County Commission and the resources and support they have available.

The most important action that parents and caretakers can take now is to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated will not only protect your own health, but that of your children and family's as well. We know that there is some hesitancy amongst people getting the vaccines, but the COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials and meet the FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization.

The vaccines and testing are free to all people living in California, regardless of immigration status and the state is reserving 40 percent of the vaccine supply for those communities that need it the most. We recommend everyone go to myturn.ca.gov to schedule their appointment or visit the website of their local county health department or local health care provider. Additional information on scheduling an appointment and getting tested are available at covid19.ca.gov.

These are the most challenging times in many a generation, but the end is finally in sight and First 5 California will continue to be there for families today and far into the future, so that every child in California can receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Most courageous
8. Insurance giant
13. Small trace left behind
14. In a way, signals
15. The same letter or sound at the beginning
19. The Great Lakes State
20. Engage in a contest
21. Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
22. Manpower
23. Undivided
24. Strong, magnetic metal
25. People of Tanzania
26. Sorts
30. Cop car accessory
31. Trade
32. Sullen and ill-tempered
33. Distinctive practices
34. Motor vehicles
35. Electrodes
38. Polish river
39. Human feet
40. Make very hot
44. Toppin and Kenobi are two
45. Blackbird
46. One point west of due south
47. Large beer
48. Third stomachs
49. Rare Korean family name
50. Hectoliter
51. Aquatic invertebrate
55. Where we live
57. Poked holes in
58. Partner to ways
59. __ Ann

CLUES DOWN
1. Expressions of approval
2. Replace the interior of
3. Not awake
4. Roman numeral 7
5. Sun up in New York
6. Institute legal proceedings against
7. Bugs homeowners don't want
8. Maltese-Italian composer
9. Very long period of time
10. Touchdown
11. Agents of downfall
12. Complacently or inanely foolish
16. Argentina capital Buenos __
17. County in New Mexico
18. An electrically charged atom
22. New Zealand conifer
25. Type of brandy
27. Comments to the audience
28. Tears down
29. Gifts for the poor
30. More painful
32. Good friend
34. Lying in the same plane
35. Line in a polygon
36. Clouds of gas and dust
37. Norse god
38. Health care pro
40. Close tightly
41. One's holdings
42. Became less intense
43. Wilco frontman
45. Woman (French)
48. Expresses delight
51. TV channel (abbr.)
52. Beverage
53. Unit of work or energy
54. Cleaning accessory
56. Dorm worker

Water saving can be beautiful when you garden like nature intended



Photo by John Rusk, https://flickr.com/photos/john_d_rusk/21391531748

Symphyotrichum lentum —Suisun Marsh aster. Included in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants on list 1B.2 (rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere). Threatened, as are many wetland species, by the continued degradation of wetlands. Restricted to marshes along or near the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta . The species intergrade with Symphyotrichum chilense. Host plant to several species of butterflies and a nectar source for native bees.

Need ideas?

Here are Soleil Tranquilli's top five best native shrubs or perennials to grow in Sacramento region

Bush anemone (Carpenteria californica): Evergreen shrub with showy white flowers.

Golden currant (Ribes aureum): Can take Sacramento's summer heat with practically no summer water.

Hummingbird sage (Salvia spathacea): Produces lots of fragrant pink and lilac flowers in dry shade.

Coffeeberry (Frangula californica): Makes a great hedge or divider that bees can't resist.

Cleveland sage (Salvia clevelandii): Gray-green aromatic foliage contrasts with whorls of blue flowers.

By Debbie Arrington
For BeWaterSmart.info

Spring is the time to fall in love – with California native plants. From golden poppies to vibrant redbuds, they bloom in a rainbow of brilliant hues, brightening nearby hillsides as well as suburban landscapes. And these easy-care plants put on this eye-catching show even during dry years.

"Everything looks fantastic!" says landscape designer Soleil Tranquilli, owner of Tranquilli Gardens and a water-wise specialist. "This is the best time of year to see native gardens in Sacramento."

Refreshed by winter rains, plants native to our Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothills look their best in early spring. That's how nature intended; the better to attract bees. Their flowers provide needed nectar and pollen to dozens of native bee species.

Once established, these cast-iron perennials and shrubs can tolerate the driest conditions. Even in years with normal rainfall, they save water compared to traditional lawn-based landscaping because they naturally need less moisture year-round to look their best. That adaptability is a huge asset.

"Native plants and low water-use plants will be more climate change resilient in the future as well," Tranquilli says. "When you plant natives, you use way less water," Tranquilli adds. "You also spend way less time managing your garden. They are less expensive, too; there's no need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It makes it better for us when we make it better for nature."

Need another reason? Rebates from your water provider may be available for lawn removal and landscape makeovers. Learn more at https://bewatersmart.info/rebates-services/.

You can view local examples at the Fair Oaks Horticulture in Fair Oaks Park or by visiting the WEL (Water-Efficient Landscape) Demonstration Garden created by the UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Sacramento County. The garden is open free daily, dawn to dusk. Details: http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Fair_Oaks_Horticulture_Center/Water_Efficient_Landscape_Garden/

Online, find extensive galleries of local landscapes featured on Gardens Gone Native garden tours. Hosted by the Sacramento Valley chapter of the California Native Plant Society, these tours showcase gardens using at least 25 percent natives. Visit: https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/photo-gallery.

Debbie Arrington is guest writer for BeWaterSmart.info, the Regional Water Authority's Water Efficiency Program. She is a longtime home and garden reporter and author of the blog Sacramento Digs Gardening: https://sacdigsgardening.blogspot.com/

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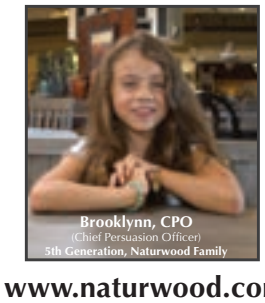
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