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## Locals bid farewell to East Sac Hardware

see page 8

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## Chinese WWII vet honored with congressional medal

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PHOTO BY CAROL BOGART

The outdoors (at least 6 feet away from others), and the sun, are Covid's enemies, so, yay, it's time to garden!


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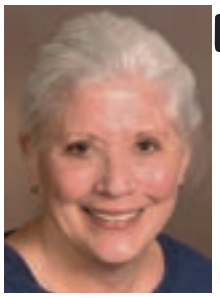
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**Cover photo by:**
**Lance Armstrong**

# THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

## *Safe to Go to Walmart?*

No more orange tape on the floor except at registers to remind you to stay at least six feet apart. No more hand sanitizer dispenser as you enter to wipe down your cart handle and periodically your hands as you shop. I guess Walmart hasn't heard that a new, worse surge could infect more of us starting in mid-March.

As I write this Feb. 23, Covid strains that are more deadly/more infectious are circulating RIGHT NOW in Yolo County. Already, half a million+ people have died from the virus in this country. Add to the original Covid-19 the UK, Brazil and South Africa 'variants' plus the Denmark mutation we're told has been around since May.

I'm not happy. Even after I get my second Moderna shot March 4, only 'herd' immunity (when 70 percent of us are vaccinated) will protect us, says the CDC. Pfizer's already working on a booster to its initial vaccine it hopes will work against at least some of Covid's variants. You might want to double mask. Take your mask(s) off by the ear things. Don't touch the front. As for the Purell Walmart was dispensing, it likely wasn't virus-protective anyway. Alcohol. Alcohol content in hand sanitizer. Look for that. It's easy to find online.

Yes, some California counties are reporting fewer Covid cases and, in some, restrictions have been loosened. Mostly because the predicted surge hasn't/hadn't happened yet. And, let's be honest. Too many businesses are shutting down for good.

So, there's this: "Just because you can doesn't mean you should" participate, say, in gatherings such as indoor church.

Except for essentials, I stay home. I double up my 'outings'. Live bugs from Petco for the lizards after I've been to Walmart/gotten gas, or to Wild West for crickets if I go to Raley's.

I tried Walmart delivery. Once. The ordered items showed up in fits and starts. Some from suppliers – on different days than 'in stock' items.

So I drive five minutes to Walmart's to get cheap napkins for cleaning the lizard tanks, groceries and greeting cards. I like to pick out funny cards, my own produce plus check expiration dates on milk. It's not good for cars to just sit, nor people, either. Walmart, Raley's, Petco, Wild West. Mental health outings, that's what these are. And scrub my hands when I get home.

To end this on an upbeat note, guess what! Walmart's garden center is packed with garden plants! I like that! I love picking out plants and seeds and gardening! Maybe I'll get started Friday before I go to Petco. Double masked.

Birders! Mark your calendars! Cornell Lab/Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count next year is 2/18/2022 through 2/22/2022. Bird lovers worldwide participate in this 'citizen science' project. Missed it this year? Audubon sponsors annually other "citizen" bird projects. Example: Its 2019 climate change report, Survival By Degrees, found that up to two-thirds of North American birds are vulnerable to extinction due to climate change. The Climate Watch project tests Audubon's climate models by having volunteers look for birds where the models predict they will be. Twice a year, volunteer birders across North America survey for one of 12 target species. Carol recently saw one of the 'targeted species' in Broderick – a Western Bluebird. Interested? For more information or to sign up, go to: https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch. Questions, comments? Contact Carol at carol@bogartonline.com.


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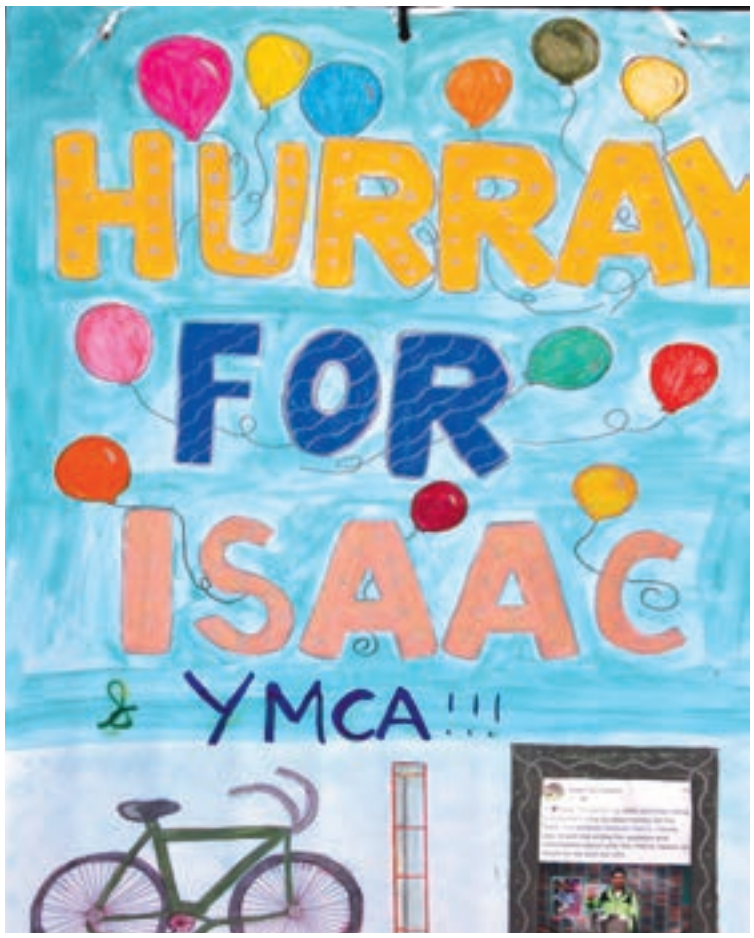
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# Faces and Places: Isaac's bike ride 2021






**Photos by Monica Stark**

After five years of riding a stationary bike in the lobby of the YMCA for his birthday, this year a YMCA Advisory Member did the annual fundraiser from home in his driveway in Tahoe Park on Feb. 23.

Throughout the day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., neighbors and friends popped by to wish Isaac Gonzalez a happy 40th birthday and add money to the growing fundraiser. The big day ended with a tuba serenade from a neighbor and a singalong of the good ol' Happy Birthday song.

Isaac has challenged himself to ride one more time for the Y to raise funds in our time of need. Last year, Isaac shattered his goal of raising $10,000 on his birthday bike ride, raising over $12,000 to support YMCA programs in his community. This year, he smashed that, raising $13,462.





# The Sweetest Kind of Community Service



By Devin Lavelle

Something is missing at our shopping centers this year. Usually, we would see tables set up with a stack of colorful cookie boxes, staffed by cheerful, diligent young ladies. It is a time of year many of us look forward to – let's be honest, we all have a favorite cookie and we inevitably buy a few too many boxes each year (Carmel de'Lites are this author's guilty pleasure). But this year, with COVID, in-person sales like that are out the window.

With schools online and so many social activities canceled, however, the kind of constructive, interactive experience that kids get through activities like scouting is all the more important – which means fundraising needs to continue.

Luckily, girl scouts in our community have found new and creative ways to help us all satisfy our sweet tooth.

One local girl, Olivia Tafoya, found a way to promote her sales that, as your Parks Commissioner, I found particularly motivating. I met Olivia and her mother, Natalie Paus-Tafoya, at a local park to discuss her strategy.

**Devin**: Hi Natalie, thanks for talking to me today. How long have you been a girl scout?

**Olivia**: Hi! I've been in Girl Scouts since I was 5 when I started Kindergarten. I am 6 years old now and this is my first year in Girl Scouts as a Daisy.

**Devin**: That's great! What is your favorite part of girl scouts?

**Olivia**: My favorite part is when we do activities like paint, dance, and seeing the other girl scouts and troop leader on the computer.

**Devin**: You're selling cookies? Can you tell us about that?

**Olivia**: Yes! This is my first year selling cookies and I know people love Girl Scout cookies like I do. Our troop 28 will use the funds toward membership fees, patches, and uniforms. We also hope to take a few virtual field trips and hopefully in-person ones too.

Eventually, it will cover day trips and camping.

**Devin**: So I hear you have a really great way to encourage people to buy cookies?

**Olivia**: For every box of cookies I sell, I pledge to pick up a piece of trash from our community parks.

**Devin**: That's great! I spend a lot of time cleaning up our parks too! Why did you choose to clean up parks?

**Olivia**: To help animals like the squirrels that live there from getting sick from the trash. Animals might think it is food. The parks are beautiful when there is no trash there.

**Devin**: You are so right! So what's your favorite park? What is your favorite thing to do there?

**Olivia**: My favorite park is this park right by my house. I like to go for walks and look for bugs like rollie pollies, ladybugs, flowers, and daisies. I also like to play soccer and play on the playground.

**Devin**: OK, back to business. What's your favorite cookie?

**Olivia**: Anything with chocolate! Like thin mints are my favorite.

**Devin**: Yum! Alright, I'm hungry, how do we order?

**Olivia**: There are two ways! One option is having the cookies mailed directly to you and the other is where we may be able to deliver to you based on location. Please email my mommy at tafoyafamily2011@gmail.com to order.

**Devin**: Mom, you must be pretty proud?

**Natalie**: We (along with Dad, Chase Tafoya) are proud that our daughter, Olivia, is gaining a sense of community service and being a Girl Scouts is the perfect platform to serving our community by keeping our parks beautiful while fulfilling our neighbor's Girl Scout cookie cravings.

**Devin**: That is great! Thank you so much for helping keep our parks clean. Your daughter is a great example, showing that anyone can help contribute to beautifying our community. It just a few minutes and a trash grabber. Thanks for your time today, I've ordered my cookies. Can't wait!

*If you have any stories you'd like to share about neighbors spreading positivity, please email me at devin@devinlavelle.com.*


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# First-of-its-kind health clinic for foster children opens in Sacramento

## Clinic is a joint partnership between UC Davis Health and Sacramento County Health Center

UC Davis Health has partnered with the Sacramento County Health Center to open a first-of-its-kind clinic in Sacramento to provide medical care for children in the foster care system.

Located in the Sacramento County Health Center, it's called the CIRCLE clinic, which stands for Comprehensive Integration of Resilience into Child Life Experiences. The clinic opened last November at 4600 Broadway.

The Sacramento County Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides primary care and behavioral health services to low income residents of Sacramento County.

### The purpose of the CIRCLE clinic is to:

-offer a medical home for the children and adolescents of Sacramento County involved in child welfare

-offer primary pediatric care from UC Davis pediatricians

-coordinate specialty care

-coordinate and provide mental health services in partnership with the UC Davis CAARE Center

-screen and refer for any behavior and developmental concerns in partnership with providers at the UC Davis MIND Institute

-connect the child and family with appropriate resources in the community

-offer appropriate follow-up and communication to close the loop with child welfare providers

"The key part of this model is to provide care coordination, not only with child welfare but also with those involved in the child's life in a child-centered manner. We have integrated general pediatricians, mental care professionals, behavioral therapists and child psychiatrists, along with public health nurses and the county's child welfare," said UC Davis volunteer clinical faculty member and pediatrician Katy Carlsen, who has helped spearhead these efforts and donated funds to make this clinic possible. A UC Davis endowment has also been established to generate funds.

UC Davis pediatrician Albina Gogo has been part of a workgroup for the past three years to create this clinic and works there part time.

"Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including being in the foster care system, can create trauma and impact the health and wellbeing of children. The CIRCLE clinic provides comprehensive, trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive health care to help instill resilience into these children's lives, resulting in better long-term health outcomes and more stable foster home placements," Gogo said.

So far, the team has seen about a dozen pediatric patients.

"I was super excited when I heard about it," said Monica Foote, a former foster child who is now a foster parent, who came to the clinic for the first time this month. "I experienced a lot of trauma in the system and it did affect my physical health. I'm glad that there is a clinic like this. It's really touched my heart."

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# Chinese WWII vet honored with congressional medal

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

South Land Park resident Dr. Herbert Yee, a retired Sacramento dentist, on Jan. 23 was presented with a congressional gold medal recognizing his service as a Chinese American in World War II.

This award was created through bipartisan legislation with the passage of the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, on Dec. 12, 2018. It was signed into law by former President Donald Trump eight days later.

A 1942 graduate of Sacramento High School, Herbert served in the Army Dental Corps from 1944 to 1945. He enlisted in the Army at the age of 20 at the Presidio of Monterey.

Herbert currently serves as the commander of Gung Ho American Legion Post No. 696.

With 75 years passed since the end of World War II, Herbert is one of only about 200 surviving Chinese American World War II veterans in the United States out of the 20,000 Chinese Americans who served in that war.



Photos by Lance Armstrong

Freeman Lee presents the medal to Dr. Herbert Yee during the Jan. 23 ceremony.

While observing COVID-19 restrictions, a small group of Herbert's mask-wearing, socially-distanced family and friends gathered for a small ceremony in his backyard. The event was presented live through the Zoom application for those who did not attend this in-person gathering.

Among the attendees was Chiling Tong, president and CEO of the Sacramento Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship, and Joel Szabat, former U.S. assistant secretary of transportation.

Freeman Lee, vice commander of Gung Ho Post No. 696, presented the congressional medal to Herbert during the ceremony.

"Today, I'm honored to present this congressional gold medal to Pvt. Herbert Yee on behalf of a grateful nation and the Congress of the United States and former President Trump of the United States," he said.

Following that presentation, Herbert described the medal as very meaningful to himself and his family.

"We will cherish it forever," he said. "We will guard it, love it, and pray for it. And I thank everybody here for your kindness, for your loyalty to our country and I'm very happy. May God bless all of us forever and forever."

As part of the event, Herbert's grandson, David Yee, stood before the small crowd and described the prestige of the congressional gold medal.

"Bestowed by the United States Congress, the congressional gold medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom are the nation's highest civil awards; awarded first to Gen. George Washington by the Second Continental Congress in 1776," he said.

"The congressional gold medal seeks to honor those who have done a remarkable achievement, that has impact on America's history and culture. During World War II, Chinese Americans displayed their patriotism, loyalty and courage, despite the inequity of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was in place at that time."

This act, which was signed into law by President Chester A. Arthur on May 6, 1882, denied any Chinese, except the relatives of American citizens, from entering the United States.

This federal law was extended for 10 years in both 1892 and 1902 and was made a permanent law in 1904. Its status remained the same until President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Magnuson Act to repeal the Chinese Exclusion Act on Dec. 17, 1943.

However, the Magnuson Act was subject to guidelines in the Immigration Act of 1924, which placed a low percentage quota on the number of immigrants that would be allowed to enter the United States per year.

Chinese immigration would later increase following the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Services Act of 1965.

David told the attendees that during World War II, nearly one of every five Chinese living in the United States at that time served in the U.S. armed forces.

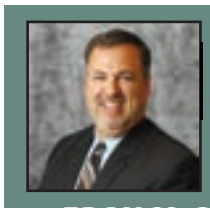
He added that an estimated 40% of those Chinese who served America in that war were not U.S. citizens, because of laws that denied citizenship to people of Chinese descent who were residing in the United States.

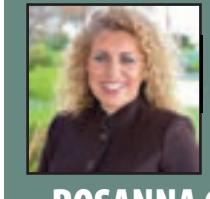
"These veterans served with honor and distinction and received many recognitions for their heroism, including even the congressional medal of honor," David said. "Their service helped overcome preconceptions by their fellow countrymen and helped pave the way for their descendants."

David also presented an overview of his grandfather's life activities and accomplishments.

He mentioned that at the age of 6, Herbert arrived at

see Medal page 5



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This congressional gold medal was presented to Dr. Herbert Yee during a special ceremony on Jan. 23.

# Medal:

*continued from page 4*

Angel Island, where tens of thousands of immigrants entered the West Coast of the United States.

As a Stanford alumnus, Herbert graduated as a dental surgeon from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1948.

Hebert eventually spent more than 50 years in the dental profession. During that time, he served as the official dentist for the staff of two California governors: Edmund Gerald "Pat" Brown Sr. and Ronald Reagan.

His other leadership roles have included serving as president of the International College of Dentists, president of the California State Board of Dental Examiners, counselor of the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Education, regent of the University of the Pacific, district governor of Lion's Club District 4 C5, and president of the Sacramento Chinese Benevolent Association.

In addition to his most recent award, Herbert was also recently named as the California Dental Association's Humanitarian of the Year, and he was honored by the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation.

Regarding his humanitarianism and philanthropy, David mentioned that his grandfather funded the construction of a school near his hometown of Taishan. That institution opened in 1981, and a cultural center and library in China was named after himself and his father, Henry Yee (1897-1979), in 2007.

Herbert, who is a descendent of Gold Rush pioneers, also helped fund the restoration of his great-grandfather's herb store in Fiddletown. The old store is now a museum, and Fiddletown is a registered California Historical Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Herbert was married to Inez Yee for more than 70 years, and they had four sons. He currently has nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Darren Yee, one of Herbert's grandchildren and the son of Herbert's since-deceased son, Douglas Yee, praised his grandfather on the day of his ceremony.

"I'm so proud of him for this accomplishment," Darren said. "To be able to see him win this award, it just means a lot to me and I know (Douglas) would appreciate it, too."

Summarizing his grandfather's life, David said, "His life exemplifies the American dream."

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# Locals bid farewell to East Sac Hardware



East Sac Hardware closed on Feb. 28 after nearly 70 years in business.




Photos by Lance Armstrong

A sign on the front door of East Sac Hardware advertises for it 50% off sale, on Feb. 26.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With the recent announcement that East Sac Hardware would close, the East Sacramento News dropped by this historic business to hear what customers had to say about that closure.

An institution of East Sacramento, this store, at 4800 Folsom Blvd., was in continuous operation until Sunday, Feb. 28, when it closed after nearly 70 years in business.

Established in 1951 by Frank Robinson, a former resident of Arkansas, this establishment built its longtime reputation as a neighborhood store that customers could rely on for a wide variety of hardware supplies. It also included a garden center and other supplies and services.

Following about 33 years under Robinson's ownership, one of his nephews briefly operated the place before Richard "Rich" Leland Johnston purchased the store through an auction.

Along with his wife, Sheree, and several employees, Rich extended the store's operation as a place known for serving many loyal customers.

The closure of the store was based on Sheree's decision to retire.

Among the customers who shared their memories of the store during this publication's Feb. 26 visit was James Erlandson, a local painter who had been shopping at East Sac Hardware for about the past 16 years.

"For little, knicky-knack things it's great, and they recommend a lot of work for my business," he said. "Actually, I was a little bit on the inside (regarding the closure), so I knew probably a few weeks before anyone else. It was a little upsetting. It's been a staple around here. But the owner wants to retire and the kids don't really want to take it over."

East Sacramento resident Patrick Hackett, who has a background in construction, expressed his sorrow for the closure of this store.

"It's sad (losing a place) that gives a full-service business, that knows everything," he said. "Any part you need, you come to East Sac Hardware. You go to the bigger chain stores, they don't really know what they're looking for. These are good people. They've been around for a long time, and I'm kind of heartsick about it."

Another East Sacramento resident. Armando Martinez, who began shopping at East Sac Hardware in about 1986, described the store as offering a lot of convenience.

"If you're working on something (and) you need something, come over here," he said. "It's convenient. (But with the closure), now you just have to go further."

Martinez recognized the continued loss of mom and pop-type hardware stores in Sacramento.

"Lot's of hardware stores are closing, like (Yankee Hardware at) Fruitridge (Road) and Stockton Boulevard. It's progress. The (East Sacramento) neighborhood basically is changing. A little more upscale restaurants, and coffee shops."

Martinez added that he recently asked an East Sac Hardware employee about how the store's customers were reacting to the closure.

"I asked the guy, 'You guys going to be missed? I'm sure you've been hearing that,'" Martinez said. "He said, 'One hundred times a day.'"

Robert Coolman, a 1972 graduate of Sacramento High School, described his longtime connection to East Sac Hardware.

"I've been coming here at least 30 years," he said. "I was doing carpentry and I knew Rich, and (the store) was not this big. They expanded (the store to the east).

"So, Rich was my neighborhood guy. You know how it is when you do projects. You would come in and you would say, 'Blah, blah, blah,' and (Rich) would hem and haw with you and he would figure it out."

Coolman also recalled a time when Sacramento had more mom and pop-type hardware stores.

"Newbert's Hardware (at 17th and J streets) was another great hardware store, and (East Sac Hardware) became one of the last neighborhood (hardware) stores. So, when I was a kid, there was (also) Didion's Hardware

see Hardware page 9






Dolores Johnson shops at East Sac Hardware during the store's third to last day in business, on Feb. 26. Photo by Lance Armstrong



Shown at East Sac Hardware on Feb. 26 are various items, including metal trays of nails that were for sale by weight.

# Hardware:

*continued from page 8*

(at 45th and D streets. Bob Didion) retired (in 1983). I (also) used to go to Broadway Hardware, but that was a little out of my way."

While standing near East Sac Hardware, Mark Carlson referred to another hardware store of the past: Archie's Hardware and Gifts, at 5600 J St.

"Archie's was our beloved neighborhood (hardware store)," he said. "(It was) comparatively a long way away from (East Sac Hardware)."

Carlson mentioned that after the 1998 closure of Archie's, he began frequenting East Sacramento Hardware.

"(East Sac Hardware) had little things that we need – little nickel and dime stuff," he said. "The free popcorn was an attraction. That's not the reason we came in. They had nursery and garden stuff and plumbing and electrical (supplies) and stuff like that."

West Sacramento resident Heather Reynolds told the East Sacramento News that East Sac Hardware was very important to her family and neighbors who reside in homes built in the 1940s and 1950s.

"It's just sad, because there's nowhere else to go," she said. "Most of us in this neighborhood, we come here and we all have old homes. You know, not everything was built yesterday. My house, (her mother's house), my grandmother's house, they all need older parts, and you can't get old parts anywhere. They provide a service that isn't anywhere else."

Heather Reynolds added that she began shopping at East Sac Hardware after the West Sacramento location of Hollywood Hardware closed in 2009. However, the historic flagship store on Freeport Boulevard continues to operate.

East Sacramento resident Andrew Gates summarized the closure of East Sac Hardware in a single word.

"Sad," he said. "I think that's the universal reaction." Gates, who had been shopping at East Sac Hardware for the past decade, shared what he liked about that store.

"It's the most convenient spot in town," he said. "Location, people, popcorn. It's a classic hardware store. We've still got (Capitol) Ace (Hardware at 1815 I St.) in midtown, but it's a dying breed."

Land Park resident Dolores Johnson, 92, referred to East Sac Hardware as having been a "very important" local business.

"(It has been) very important," she said. "Sometimes I just come and relax and walk around and sometimes I come when I need just a certain thing. I like the people. I have a doggie (named Muff). I can bring my doggie in. (When it closes), I will drive by and remember how it was."

Not everyone interviewed for this article had a longtime connection to this business.

Arden area resident Sheilla Rush, for instance, mentioned that she was visiting the store for the first time.

"Somebody called me and said this place is going out (of business, and) everything is 50% off; it's closing down Sunday," she said. "I thought, 'Well, I'm going to Costco, but I'll go ahead and check it out and see if they have little cutters for cutting and trimming the plants in the yard."

Rosemont resident Stan Hall, a retired telephone company worker, mentioned that he used to work in East Sacramento and has done a lot of shopping at East Sac Hardware.

"This was my area," he said. "If I need something and I'm here, I just drop in and they've usually got it. And you can also ask a question and get a good answer. (At the big box stores), you wander around and you can't even find anyone to help you."

Hall additionally lamented the loss of this local institution.

"It's disappointing," he said. "It's another source that the residents of Sacramento are going to miss for a long time."

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