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SEE PHOTOS PAGE 12–13

Crossword Puzzle 5
Faces and Places 12
Home Improvement Guide 15
Classifieds 16
What's Happening 18

Candidates answer unanswered questions from forum; reporter Lance Armstrong provides recap

See page 2



10 years since the groundbreaking of the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library

See page 9

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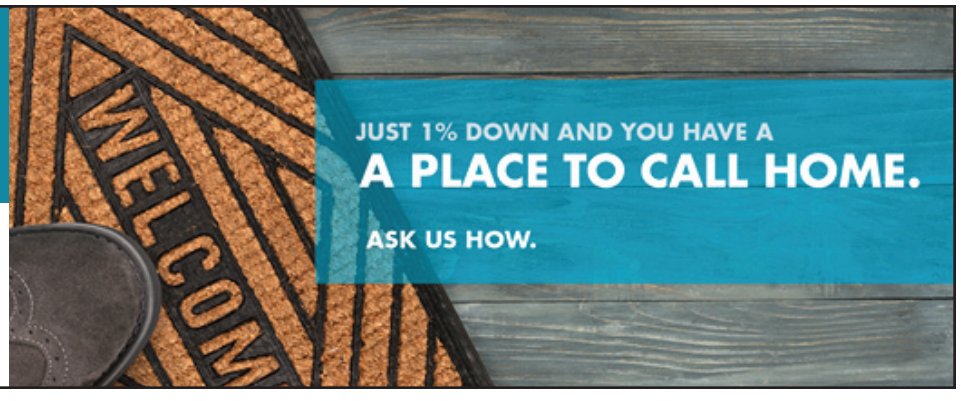



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Pocket News Candidates Forum

District 7 City Council candidates share views on local issues

By LANCE ARMSTRONG



Photos by Lance Armstrong
Matias Bombal, the forum's moderator, asks a question to the District 7 candidates.

Sacramento City Council Member Rick Jennings, and Tristan Brown and Victor Edinbergh, his challengers in this June's District 7 primary election, drew a capacity crowd at last week's Pocket News Candidates Forum.

During this event, which was held on May 9 at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, these candidates addressed various local issues in response to questions that were submitted to the Pocket News.

In addition to those questions, which were asked by the moderator Matias Bombal, other questions were submitted by members of the audience and answered by the candidates following the forum.

The candidates' responses to the audience's questions are included in this edition of this paper.

Among the issues discussed by the candidates during the forum was the controversial effort to open privately owned sections of the parkway along the Sacramento River in the Pocket area to the public.

Jennings mentioned that the city has authorized funding from its General Fund to purchase recreational easements along privately owned portions of the levee.

"We're starting to make progress," he said. "We're getting homeowners who are having the opportunity to say, 'Yes, this is what I want to do.' And we've had success so far, but we still have a ways to go."

Jennings expressed support of that project.

"My goal is to have that parkway open, so that everyone has the ability to exercise, to walk, to run, to stroll, to be able to enjoy the Sacramento River and ultimately the American River, and to enjoy it in a way they haven't been able to do for the last 40 years."

Brown expressed his belief that there is a high risk that this issue could end up in court, because of the feelings of some of the landowners.

See Forum, page 3

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Forum:

Continued from page 2

Brown added that he is interested in finding a resolution to the levee issue.

"I really would like to avoid (having the city sued) at all costs," he said. "I think that would take a really long time. It would be millions of dollars that I would like to see spent on after school programs (and other projects)."

Edinbergh desires "some kind of semblance between the homeowners and the city."

He also said that in addition to extending access along the levee, his research shows that the levee will need to be reinforced "sooner or later."

After mentioning school related gun violence, Bombal asked each of the candidates about their stances on arming teachers with guns.

Edinbergh said that he does not want guns on school campuses, and he suggests talking to teachers to obtain their opinions on this issue.

Agreeing with Edinbergh, Jennings said that teachers should not have guns in classrooms.

The council member added that teachers should be trained how to de-escalate situations involving guns, and that parents should be involved in conversations about this issue.

Brown said that teachers are not marksmen, soldiers or police officers, and thus arming teachers is not a solution. He instead called for mental health counselors for students who believe that using a gun is the only solution to solve certain problems.

The candidates also had the opportunity to discuss experiences that they have had that illustrate why the district is special to them.



Victor Edinbergh is among the two candidates who will challenge Sacramento City Council Member Rick Jennings in this June's District 7 primary race.

Brown recalled the community spirit and the family-oriented atmosphere he felt when he first attended the annual 4th of July Spirit of the Pocket Parade.

Edinbergh said that he enjoys living in a community, which includes quality schools and people.

Responding to the same question, Jennings touted the district's parks, library and events, such as the Eggstravaganza, Jazz in July concert series, and Trucks and Such food truck event.

Following the forum, Pocket News editor Monica Stark commented about this well attended event.

"Having the library community room at standing room only was a testament to the candidates themselves and the character they each bring to the table," she said. "I feel like residents came away with a better knowledge of each of them on both a political and more personal level.

"I am gracious to Matias Bombal for acting as master of ceremonies and to the president of the Friends of the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, Kathi Windheim, for getting the room reserved."

See candidates respond to unanswered questions from this forum on page 4.



District 7 candidate Tristan Brown introduces himself to attendees of the forum.



Sacramento City Council Member Rick Jennings ponders a question on a local issue during the Pocket News Candidates Forum on May 9.

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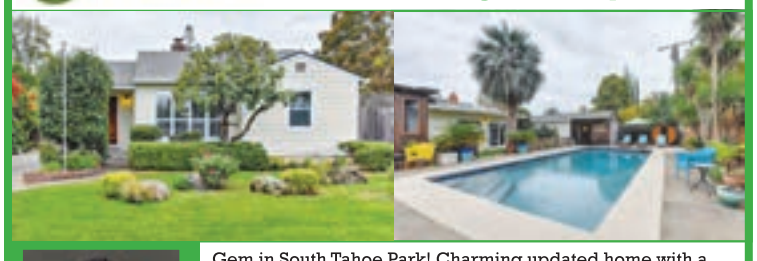



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D7 City Council candidates answer unanswered questions from the Pocket News forum

On May 9, the Pocket News held a forum for District 7 City Council candidates at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library. Many questions that were submitted weren't answered at the forum, but were submitted to the candidates to answer for publication in this issue. Remember, the election will be held on Tuesday, June 5.

1. What does your campaign donor base tell voters about your values and priorities?

Rick Jennings: That I value inclusion and I am focused on being the District 7 City Councilmember, not looking for another office. I have support from business organizations and labor organizations. I have support from teachers, business owners and retired people. My support is focused in our region and in our community. I am proud of the individual donors and of the organizational and business donors. The balance that my donor base tells voters is that I look for solutions.

Tristan Brown: My donor base is comprised of small individual donors and a handful of larger labor organizations. I think this reflects my values in prioritizing face-to-face interaction with the residents of the district. My supporters have known me for decades and have seen my dedication to helping people on a one-on-one level. My donors give what they can, some $25, some $1,000, and our campaign is fueled by these individual donations. We do not take money from apartment groups who are trying to kill the rent control proposal here in Sacramento.

Victor Edinburgh: My donors would proclaim that their candidate for election, Victor Edinburgh would and will base his campaign on truth, fairness, and doing what is ethical and right for all his constituents and citizens of the city of Sacramento.

2. What can you do to aid business development in District 7?

Victor Edinburgh: I, as council representative would be available to any business location desiring to have me on their premises/business, on a scheduled basis at a period of time within the year. I would be available during that year at least once on a scheduled basis, or personally there on a scheduled basis. I would also talk with interested business owners about a publishable list of businesses in District 7, with location and wares or services sold. Lastly, list all business in District 7 in the Pocket News twice monthly if businesses would donate to that publication for printing cost.

Rick Jennings: I will continue doing what I have already done. I get directly involved to ensure that the City follows all the rules and is fair. If a business owner wants to invest in District 7, I want the City to view their efforts as a partnership. In true partnerships both partners thrive. Both partners look to support each other. I have worked directly with business owners to make sure the city is responsive to their needs and eliminate the red tape of doing businesses in Sacramento. I continue to meet with them on an ongoing business to support their success.

Tristan Brown: I will work directly with business owners and entrepreneurs who are looking to start businesses in the area. I believe we need to reach our hand out further to small businesses, especially after the council allowed Walmart to come to Delta Shores, which directly threatens the small business in our area. I want to start a business liaison team at city hall that is there to walk business owners through the complex bureaucracy, much like a travel agent would help a traveler in a foreign land. I also want to direct funding to create more minority-owned businesses in the area.

3. What will you do to ensure that the Pocket Area has reliable RT bus service?

Tristan Brown: I will push for the city to re-direct funding to making sure there are smaller electric bus options in the area that can go further into our neighborhoods to help cut down on the amount of walking a person has to do at the beginning or end of their trip. We also need service after 7pm and on weekends to help workers who are not on regular shifts and for families that want to get downtown but avoid the high cost of parking lots or risk a parking ticket until 10pm. Finally, we should expand programs that help travelers see where the bus is on a phone application so they can make more informed decisions about getting around.

Victor Edinburgh: The Pocket area's bus service availability would be researched as to current bus service and noted by Council 7 representative. Secondly, the representative would have all interested District 7 citizens whom ride the bus or are interested in riding, fill out a questionnaire inquiry what bus services are needed, what time would be necessary to accommodate their needs for bus services. The survey would be in the Pocket News, or placed in businesses

See Questions page 6

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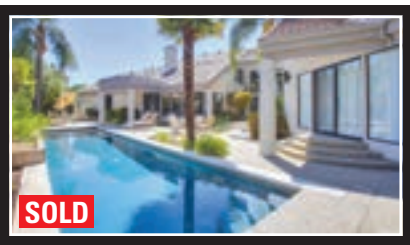

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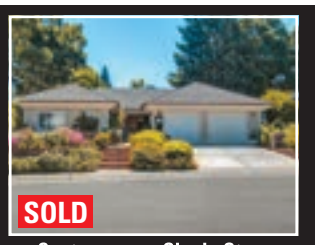

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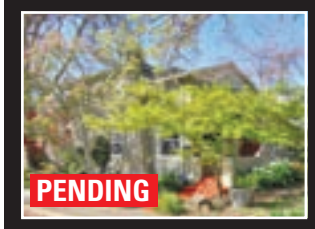
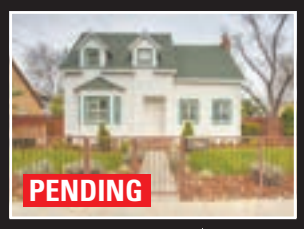
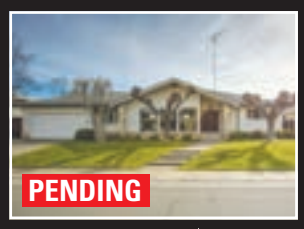


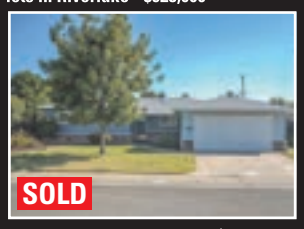
2239 Castro Way - $689,000



1900 23rd Street - $629,000



6315 Fordham Way - $499,000



7277 Stanwood Way - $349,900



3 Still Shore Court - $1,249,000



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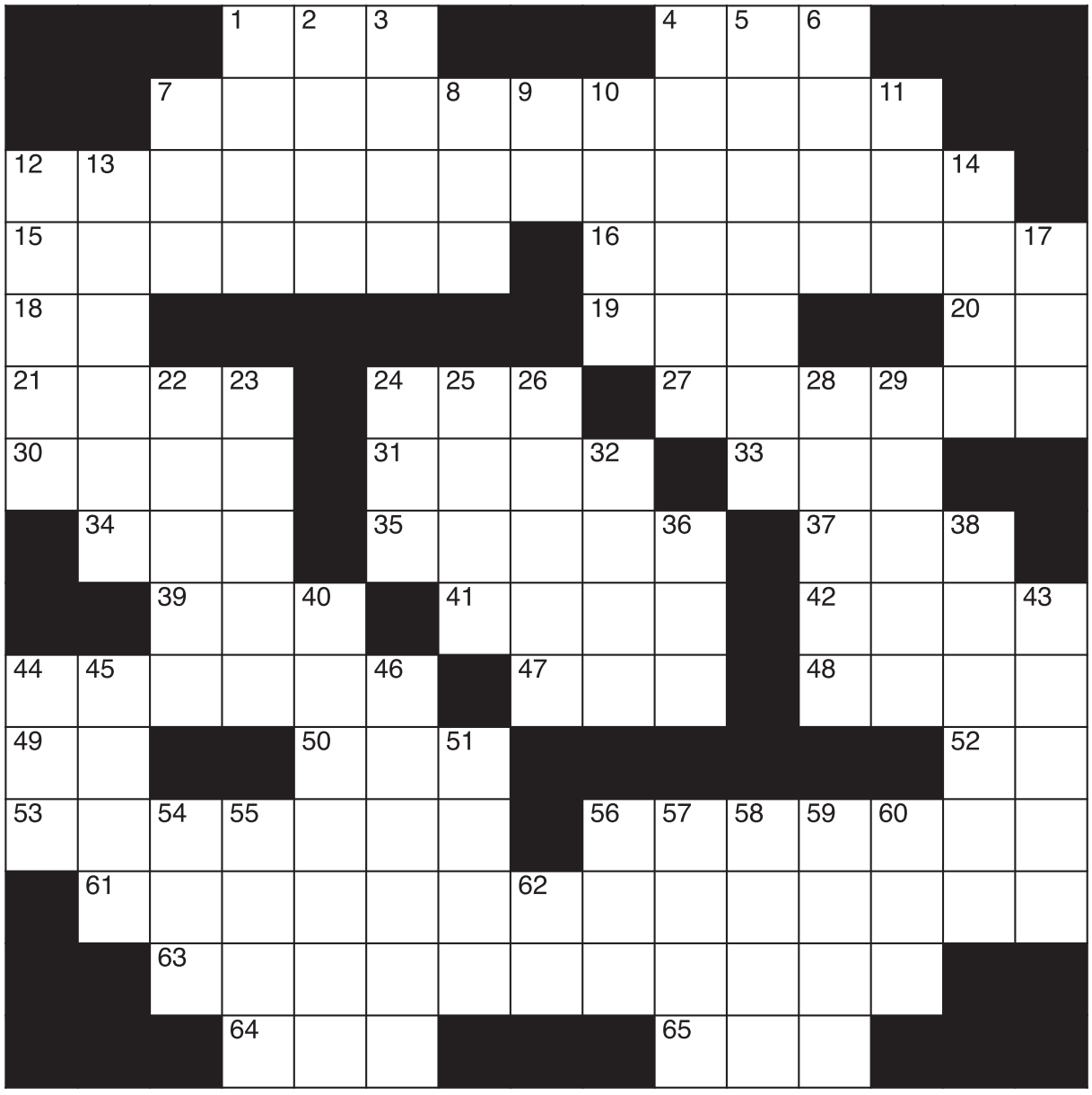

CLUES ACROSS

1. Small lump
4. Helps little firms
7. A way of performing
12. Lawyers
15. Stirred up
16. Believed in
18. The Bay State (abbr.)
19. Makes computers
20. Sodium
21. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
24. Institute legal proceedings against
27. More compact
30. Ethiopian river
31. Quantitative fact
33. No (Scottish)
34. A concession of no great value
35. Tony-winning actress Daisy
37. More (Spanish)
39. Russian space station
41. Helicopter
42. At the peak
44. Makes ecstatically happy
47. Excellent
48. Material body
49. The Golden State (abbr.)
50. A unit of plane angle
52. Argon
53. Fancy
56. Fried mixture of meat and spices
61. How green plants use sunlight
63. Without wills
64. Unhappy
65. Meat from a pig's leg

CLUES DOWN

1. Mentor
2. Lyric poems
3. A dry cold north wind in Switzerland
4. Trapped
5. Used for road surfacing
6. Cuckoos
7. Prefix "away from"
8. Seth McFarlane comedy
9. Not out
10. "The Simpsons" bus driver
11. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
12. Acclaimed Indian physicist
13. Removes
14. One-name NBA player
17. Revolutionary women
22. Smell
23. Ground-dwelling songbird
24. Midway between south and southeast
25. American state
26. Keen
28. Khoikhoin peoples
29. Int'l defense organization
32. Samoan money
36. A sign of assent
38. One from Somalia
40. Boat race
43. Trims
44. French coins
45. Indigenous Scandinavian
46. Flew alone
51. Loch where a "monster" lives
54. Japanese title
55. Pros and __
56. Present in all living cells
57. Something to scratch
58. Branch of Islam
59. Appear
60. Former CIA
62. Yukon Territory



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Questions:

Continued from page 4

in the Pocket area for pick up and the place where it could be sent or dropped off for collection by the representative staff members.

Rick Jennings: Transit service to all of District 7 needs improvement. When I was first elected, RT was spending reserves to meet ongoing operations. Through hard work and tough decisions, we have stabilized the finances of RT and are putting money back in reserves. We have also begun a route study to determine where, when and how we increase services for choice and transit dependent riders. We are also piloting on demand shuttle services that operate similar to Lyft/Uber to create more flexibility in times and locations served. This pilot program looks very promising and we are beginning to expand this service.

4. What are your plans to address the needs of Valley Hi?

Rick Jennings: Since my election I have focused efforts on expanding services in Valley Hi. We have partnered with neighborhood associations to understand the priorities of the Valley Hi community. We have improved parks, provided additional city services and partnered with schools and community-based organizations to bring healthy food options to residents of Valley Hi and Detroit. I have secured federal funding to open up the Susan B Anthony School Park/Community Center in the Detroit Neighborhood. We have also brought community events to Valley Hi that Pocket/Greenhaven have always experienced: Movie nights, Jazz in July, Food Trucks and other community events.

Tristan Brown: I am currently helping a group of residents re-start the Valley-Hi neighborhood association, and have been establishing good relationships with school staff and officials in the area. We need to expand after school and summer programs in the area for our younger residents, along with apprenticeship programs to help students be career-ready in the building trades, which are in high demand and pay very well. I want to bring a program from Oakland that starts computer coding learning centers as well, so that students have options where they'd like to engage the economy of the future. I also believe that cannabis revenue should be spent revitalizing the neighborhood so that it looks as nice as the Pocket/Greenhaven while not gentrifying the area at the same time.

Victor Edinburgh: The Valley Hi situation could be addressed by a series of meetings at designated places where those interested citizens in a town hall style setting could address their needs and desires for activities or places to attend to their requests. Also, an alliance of citizens in the Valley Hi area would be established to assist and advise the alliance of citizens in the following procedures: 1. Ensuring the alliance is always with enough members to execute any policies agreed upon in the meetings. 2. Develop a list of issues that are priorities that will elevate the quality of life by individuals residing in the Valley Hi area. 3. Formulate a list of items that would be proposed to city of Sacramento government to replace or restructure any sites or buildings owned by the city to be repaired or replaced. 4. The alliance would list the needs of the citizens needing mental health, health services and low-cost housing or special educational needs. 5. If there is excessive crime in the area or at a site,, a substation, police, would be requested or other police actions to assist in alleviating the crime factor. 6. Form a political group to monitor city council actions, budget disbursements and board agenda actions.

5. With rapid growth in downtown, how will you advocate for the needs of your own District?

Victor Edinburgh: The needs of District 7 would be compiled by citizens at the monthly meetings with representatives of D7. The meetings would be where the representative would listen and list the needs his constituency have uncovered or are need of fixing. The representative would work to eliminate problems listened or work to fix these areas.

Rick Jennings: The City has invested in downtown, we have also invested in our community. I secured money to open up the Sacramento River Bike Trail, install PODS in all intersections leading in and out of Pocket/Greenhaven, increased maintenance in our parks and the Pocket Canal Parkway. We have also made it a priority to rehabilitate our parks. In all, the City has invested millions of dollars in District 7 and will continue to do so through services and projects that benefit our quality of life. In addition, the City will be increasing our investment in programs that serve our youth.

Tristan Brown: My priority as an elected servant is to the residents of district 7, not to the development of downtown. That's not to say that the growth of Sacramento lately hasn't been positive for many people; however, I want to make sure that those who need help the most actually have a voice in city hall—seniors, people living with disabilities, children and our working families. I'll advocate for proper transportation, targeted business growth to bring customers what they've been wanting, a more robust plan on the levy bike trail and bicycle safety around the neighborhood, and more public safety patrolling to fight the property crimes we've been experiencing.

6. What are you going to do to assist the Sacramento Police Department with retention issues, and to ensure that they have support from the City Council and community?

Tristan Brown: We must get our police force up to full capacity. Right now we lack the ability to respond to non-life-threatening issues in a fast manner, or keep our streets safe from negligent drivers who treat the area like a racetrack, putting our children at risk as they walk to and from school. We will have to compete with other local departments that offer more pay for less risk, but we should also turn to innovative policing styles that attract cadets who want to be on the cutting edge of crime prevention and community development.

Victor Edinburgh: The quest of police services and their delivery of these services is linked to the personnel, the police department to recruit, hire and train. To assist in police retention is as follows: 1) Increase the educational entry level of recruits to be hired or recruited. Highway patrol officers are required to have at least two years of post high school graduation levels to become a highway patrol officer. 2) Require officers to each month be in a training session where college personnel and community persons or groups to be part of that monthly training period.

Rick Jennings: We have already addressed issues of retention. Officers that have left are coming back. I have personally attended swearing in ceremonies of officers that have left and now have returned. They have chosen to do so because the Sacramento Police Department is

See Issues page 7

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Issues:

Continued from page 6

highly regarded, the City has hired a new Chief of Police that the officers respect and want to work for and the City has invested in our officers with a new contract. I am proud that the contract was negotiated and did not required arbitration for the first time in over a decade.

7. Some residents have complained that the Sacramento Animal Control is not being responsive to coming out to pick up stray and lost animals anymore. They depend on residents to bring the animals to them, which isn't always convenient. Some residents have been told that if they can't hold onto an animal they have found, to go ahead and just turn it loose. The City Animal Shelter was given extra positions to assist with enforcement duties, and they receive countless donations, but still there is a lack of service in this regard. How would you resolve this issue?

Rick Jennings: Pet over-population and lack of responsibility from some owners is not unique to our community. While we have increased funding, we still need additional resources to address this issue. Animal care has done an amazing job of recruiting volunteers for areas of their operations that do not require professional staff. The animal control officers that we do have are triaging the calls they get based upon potential to cause harm. We need additional animal control officers but we also need to recognize that we as a community must be better at securing our yards and protecting our animal family members.

Tristan Brown: I have been told there is interest from residents who are retirees or just animal lovers who want to help more. One idea is to create animal rescue volunteers who are capable and ready to pick up or receive lost animals locally. They can provide short-term housing while arrangements are made with the central shelter and try to find owners through online listings. Measure U is also going to be up for renewal, and the council should be checking on any adjustments that are needed to increase staffing and capacity at the shelter. Putting together a drive to raise funds for a southern shelter that is close to our area would be a worth while project for the next council member as well.

Victor Edinburgh: Animals should be treated humanely at all times. If stray animals are found, animal control should be called and informed of the situation. A pick-up of the animal should be called in. If on city council, I would request an assessment of the pick-up services offered by the animal control office. If deemed necessary, I would offer a motion for the City Animal Control to establish a system whereby all pick-up calls are answered and completed within the hours deemed critical to assist the animal and person with the lost animal. This may be a budget area for full council order.

8. Let's talk about changing the verbiage on the water tower from City of Trees to America's Farm to Fork Capital. Discuss your opinions of the new slogan and the public input that went into the renaming process.

Victor Edinburgh: The new name of the water tower: America's Farm to Fork was discussed and named but not voted upon for changing the City of Tree moniker. The new name Farm to Fork was used to assist Sacramento as a farm region and to attract more investors around the country. The City of Trees moniker is the name of 25 other cities. Possibly a ballot measure with multiple names should be used and voted on by Sacramentans to resolve the issue once and for all.

Rick Jennings: I support the economic development of our "Farm to Fork" marketing. I value the quality of life that such an incredible farming community and restaurants scene provides. I supported our comprehensive update to our tree preservation ordinance because of the contributions of our trees. With the water tower I saw an amazing opportunity to let the hundreds of thousands of people that drive into and by our community know of the incredible food opportunities we have. The water tower can have both the City of Trees and America's Farm to Fork Capital on it.

Tristan Brown: I'm not aware of any public input that occurred prior to the change on the water tower, which is a shame. I believe it should have been made much more public and allow for public comment on the idea. While I understand that the water tower isn't necessarily a city billboard, it is one of the more iconic things that people see when they come to Sacramento from the south. I would like to restore the name or find a new alternative, through a process to give what the people want. It is a representation of our community, and should reflect genuine community input rather than have been done without anyone knowing.

9. What is your position on 3-man engines for Sac Fire and also paramedics instead of firemen in ambulances?

Tristan Brown: It has been explained to me that having 3 person, rather

See Election page 8



Election:

Continued from page 7

than 2 person teams is safer for residents. I put public safety first. Just recently a 3 person team rescued an elderly woman when a 2 person would have been unable to save her life given how much is going on during a fire. I look at that situation and put my mother in that woman's place and am glad to know the fire department is capable of saving her life. The same goes for paramedics. While these options may cost the city more, when it is our lives or the life of someone we know, I'm sure we'll all be thankful for the higher level of service that the fire department can give.

Victor Edinburgh: I think the ambulance services should be separate from the 3-man fire engine where the firemen are the lifesavers of injured people. Engine services to put out fires should be for putting out fires and not paramedics also. I feel that certified paramedics in an ambulance would serve the public more effectively than men whom are trained as medics, but mainly are to put out fires.

Rick Jennings: I support dual role ambulances because I believe that the cross training provided is important in times of life safety. I have personally seen dual role ambulances as well as fire fighter make a difference in a member of our community's life. I recognize that it is more expensive but I believe in that additional measure of safety for our residents. I also believe that the four-person truck provides a measure of safety for the firefighters when they must enter a burning building. Again, it is more expensive but the additional expense is worth the margin of safety to me.

10. What can and will you do to address the tree issues in Sacramento – those owned by the city and those privately owned by homeowners?

Rick Jennings: The City has passed a comprehensive update to our tree ordinance and have hired additional staff to care for and maintain our tree canopy. We have increased educational outreach to homeowners to help them better care for their trees. We have also focused on better maintaining our trees to handle the changes in weather so that they are more drought tolerant through better mulching and irrigation systems. We are focused on preserving the City's tree canopy of both public and private trees.

Tristan Brown: Trees are obviously a large part of Sacramento's identify as well as our ability to help keep temperatures cooler with shade and help clean the air. The number one issue with trees that I've been asked to help with is to increase the rate of response from the city to help trim back trees that extend over property lines. I'll be sure to keep pressure up on our workers to make sure arborists respond quickly and that work is done in a fast manner. We also should work with arborists to have trees at the ready to plant if a tree needs to be removed for a good reason. I do not think we should have new development without trees in the plan.

Victor Edinburgh: All trees should be left alone unless they are old and are in danger of falling on anyone. If services on the trees are required that are endangering people or power lines, the power companies should fix trees to not hurt or damage the power lines. If the tree is in danger of hurting citizens, then the City of Sacramento should provide services. I had no time to research the City of Sacramento involvement in the servicing, issue on private property. *Possibly*, the city is not responsible for privately owned trees requiring services.

In the year that the major I-5 repair occurred, it became apparent that in an emergency getting out of Pocket can be very difficult. What are your plans to deal with avoiding emergencies in infrastructure, IE: levee repairs and getting people out of Pocket in an emergency?

Victor Edinburgh: All infrastructure repairs which would affect the Pocket area or any other part of the City of Sacramento should have a preplan of infrastructure repairing any area in the City. This plan should be on file stating what safety procedures will be needed while repairs are ongoing. The time, date and locations of any infrastructure repairs which impede any traffic, school, hospital, etc. should be on file to assist the repair engineers, police department, etc. to ensure safety measures are spelled out in case of emergency, evacuations needed. I would research this procedure if elected to the City Council.

Rick Jennings: The levee improvements that will be completed by the Army Corps of Engineers and SAFCA will further increase our levee's margin of safety. This has been a critical strategy for generations and we must continue to invest in our flood safety infrastructure. In addition, the completion of the bike trail would give residents another way to exit our community if or when needed. We must also continue to invest in Florin and Meadowview Roads so that if I5 is not available that we can move across Florin and Meadowview Roads to Highway 99. The recently approved HOV lane on I5 will also create additional capacity in times of emergency.

Tristan Brown: We are locked in by 7 streets that allow residents to get out of the pocket and over to Meadowview, South Land Park, or elsewhere. If we are unable to travel above or below highway 5, our only option becomes Riverside Blvd. In a true emergency, such as a flood, we will need a hands-on council member to work with authorities to open up more passages during the emergency as soon as they are available, and turn Riverside into a one-way street as an exit strategy. We should also look into an emergency-only route around the water treatment center to Freeport blvd.

Can you ensure the community that you wouldn't hold back in making promises to act promptly without reservation to serve?

Tristan Brown: My entire career has been built on serving others. Whether it was helping seniors and people living with disabilities, school employees, or residents organizing a new non-profit or association, I have always been a helper that people can rely on. I do not mind rolling my sleeves up to be the first to help set-up or last to help clean up, and I do not mind walking door to door during this campaign, and if elected, continuing that practice during my time as your representative. I will always be one phone call away, not three, and am prepared to work well into the evening to make sure everyone is heard and that progress is made on your issues.

Victor Edinburgh: I can ensure my constituents that to serve is to be cognizant that their welfare is my first priority and not to avoid a service.

Rick Jennings: Yes. I only want to be your District 7 representative on the City Council. I have no desire to run for any other office. I can assure you that I will act promptly without reservation.



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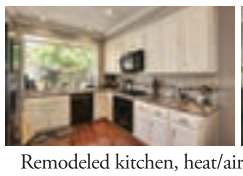

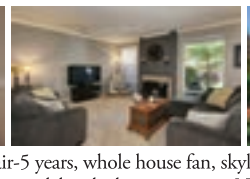



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10 years since the groundbreaking of the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library

By PAT CLARK

It was 10 years ago this month that our community broke ground for our then-future library. The May 2008 event represented the culmination of years of hard work and planning and yet simultaneously it was just the beginning for this community resource. The library was a long-term goal of City Councilmember Robbie Waters who served on the City Council from 1994-2010.

Event

The Groundbreaking event was held on the morning of Friday, May 30, 2008, a sunny and warm day at the vacant fields next to Sojourner Truth Park near Gloria Drive and Swale River Way. The event opened with speeches from various dignitaries from the City of Sacramento, the Sacramento Public Library, and the Sacramento City Unified School District. The last part of the event was the actual groundbreaking where many folks, including local students, took turns using a long line of shovels to turn the earth over.

Planning

WLC Architects were responsible for the modern design, which earned a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver award. McCarthy Construction built the school and the library. The 15,000-square-foot library includes a teen room, a ready to read room, computer work stations, and a community room capable of accommodating 100 people. But all these amenities did not just happen, they were the result of years of planning and coordination.

The library was built as a "joint use project," which means the SCUSD and the City/SPL collaborated on the project. The land is owned by SCUSD and the agreement to establish a city library on the land was negotiated by Councilmember Waters and city staff with the SCUSD. Long after that initial approval, in 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding between the SCUSD and the SPL was signed, which basically outlined roles and responsibilities for each party regarding use of the library by the school and the public. At the time, two SCUSD board representatives lived in the Pocket area – Rick Jennings and Manny Hernandez – and they were both articu-

See Anniversary, page 14



In the fall of 2007, then City Councilmember Robbie Waters with the sign announcing the future School of Engineering and Sciences (SES) and the Library, which was very visible on the site for months in advance. The double-helix logo on the left was chosen for the SES.

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Sacramento New Technology High School students win forestry challenge championship

Francisco Franco Torres, David Candia, and Michael Rafanan of Sacramento New Technology High School, one group of a total of 41 high school students from nine schools from all over California, recently won the Forestry Challenge Championship. The event was April 19 to 21 at Camp Sylvester Resort, east of Sonora, California.



One of the highlights for the students this year was the opportunity to recommend a silvicultural prescription for the Lyons Tract Unit, owned by Sierra Pacific Industries. After spending a day in the forest collecting data and interacting with natural resource professionals, students recommended a prescription that would be practical, economically sound, and in compliance with the California Forest Practice Rules. During the Challenge, teams of students also completed a field test to assess their technical forestry knowledge and data collecting skills.

"Forestry Challenge provides a learning opportunity about California's most valuable resource: our forests. Learners are engaged in the complex responsibility of understanding and making decisions about the environmental and economic factors involved in keeping our forests healthy," said New Tech High School teacher Senna Vasquez. David Candia, a junior at New Tech, summed it up as follows: "The skills utilized in Forestry Challenge are not only applicable in Forestry Challenge. Data analysis skills, time management skills, and presentation skills are all applicable in real-world situations."



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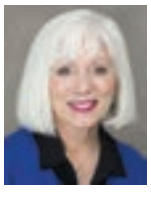

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Faces and Places:

The 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy High School's founding

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

John F. Kennedy High School celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding on Saturday, May 12. Current and past students, teachers, and staff gathered for an afternoon of food, games, history, and reconnecting. Open house meets class reunion, meets picnic in the park, guests were welcome to bring a blanket and chairs and mix and mingle through Kennedy's past, present, and future. Activities included: Food fair, carnival games, performances by current students and alumni, alumni connection tables, photobooth and more.









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Anniversary:

Continued from page 9

late advocates for bringing a library to the Pocket area.

One of the more unique aspects of a joint use project is that a working group consisting of staff from SPL, SCUSD and the City met regularly for three years to work on various aspects of the project. Working group members also provided regular project updates to their respective boards. Once construction began in 2008, representatives from McCarthy Construction joined the working group.

Funding for the $13 million library was not arrived at easily. Councilmember Robbie Waters began with a nest egg that he saved from his discretionary funds in the city council office. Then, an additional deposit of approximately $2 million was made into the library account as mitigation for the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA) water intake structure constructed in the South Pocket neighborhood. The balance was provided by Sacramento City Community Reinvestment Capitol Improvement Program (CRCIP) in 2006.



This is a small section of the many shovels lined up for groundbreaking. As a joint use project between the SCUSD and the City, many dignitaries wanted to participate.

In 2007, the SPL conducted a Community Needs Assessment for new library facilities which showed what many of us already knew, that there was a tremendous need and high interest for a library in our community. In fact, this library may very well be the first in our system where a Friends of the Library (FOL) group was established before the library was even built.

The joint use nature of the library was well-illustrated by the speakers at the Groundbreaking Event in May 2008. The City of Sacramento was ably represented by Mayor Heather Fargo and City Councilmember Robbie Waters, the Sacramento Public Library was represented by Director Anne Marie Gold, and Superintendent Maggie Mejia spoke for the SCUSD. And both the Friends of the Library and the School of Engineering and Sciences had tables where people could visit and learn about these organizations.

As illustrated by the last photo in the series, the work did not end with the Groundbreaking celebration. The last photo, taken in November 2008, shows the boring work needed to install "geo-piers" to bolster the stability of the library's foundation before real construction could begin. Required by building code, the geo-piers are concrete pillars installed vertically under the library with the intent to stabilize the library structure in the event of an earthquake.



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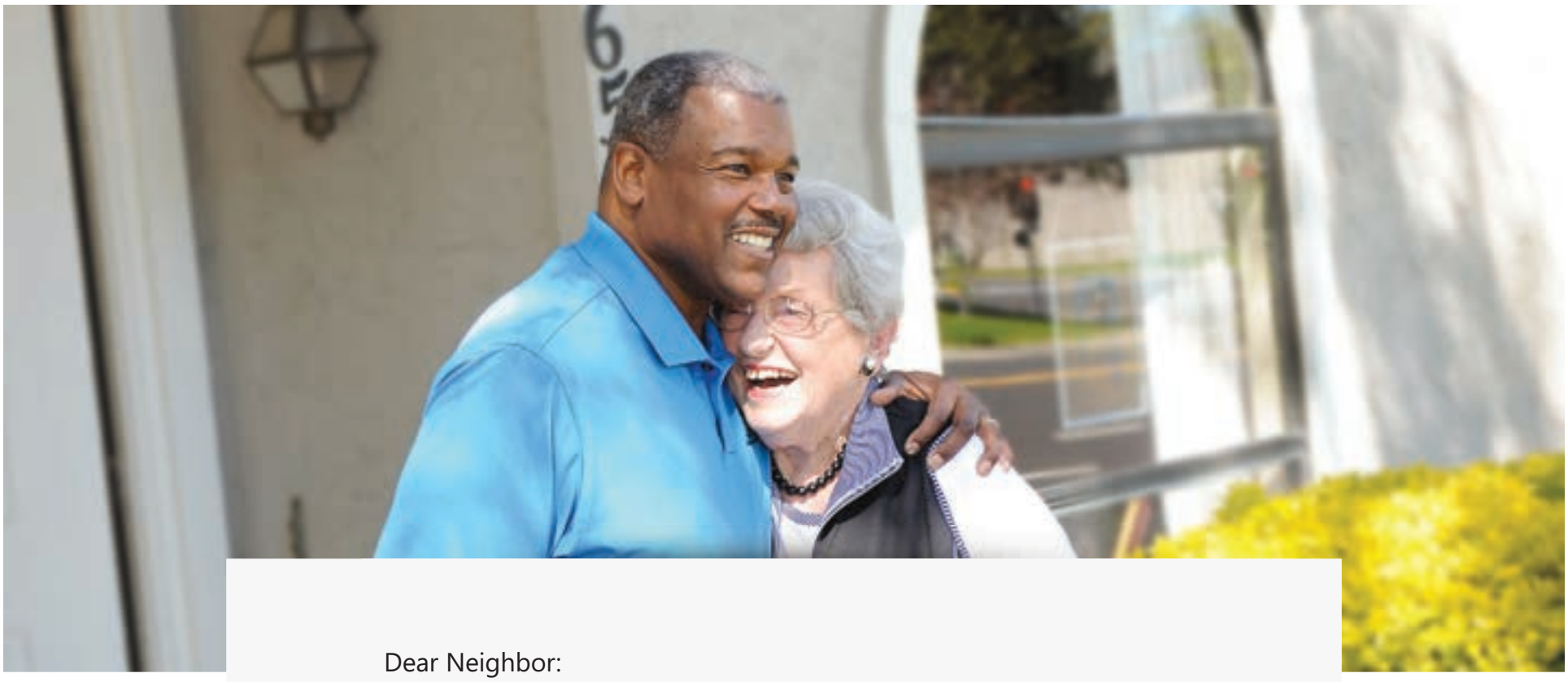

Dear Neighbor:

With Election Day coming up on June 5th, I would be honored to have your support for my re-election to the City Council.

Rick Jennings

New rules for voting are in effect in Sacramento County for the June election. All voters will be mailed a ballot to their homes, and there are 3 ways to vote:

1 **By mail.** Just sign, date, stamp and mail in your ballot.

2 **By depositing your ballot in any of the new Drop Box locations around the county,** which will be open 28 days before Election Day, and on Election Day. No stamp is required.

3 **In person, at any Vote Center location in the county.** These will replace traditional polling places and will allow you to drop off your ballot or request a ballot and vote from 10 days before Election Day through Election Day.

For more information voting in the June 5th election, go to:
www.elections.saccounty.net/VotebyMail/Pages/Voting_Before_Election_Day.aspx

Join Us in Supporting Councilmember Rick Jennings

He Gets Things Done for Our Neighborhoods!

Bernard Bowler, *Riverlake HOA President*
Rhonda Henderson, *Chair, North Laguna Creek Valley Hi Community Association*
Pat Clark, *South Pocket HOA President*
Dave Lamana, *Parkplace South HOA President*
Larry Lee, *Detroit Community Association President*
Sharon Flynn, *Deerfield/Mesa Grande HOA Secretary*
Congresswoman Doris Matsui
Mayor Darrell Steinberg
Sacramento-Sierra's Building and Construction Trades Council
Friends of the Sacramento River Parkway
Harry S Truman Club of Greater Sacramento
Latino Democratic Club
Sacramento Police Officers Association
Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522
Partial list. Titles for identification purposes only.

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What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

SATURDAY, MAY 19

ELKS LODGE, NO. 6 PARKING LOT SALE: From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a parking lot sale at the Elks Lodge, No. 6, featuring 148 vendor spaces at $20 each per space. Parking lot to make easy access for potential buyers. Additional customer parking will be available across the street at Riverside Wesleyan Church. You can start setting up at 5:30 a.m. if you're a vendor. 6446 Riverside Blvd. For more information, visit http://www.elks6.com/img/events/ep-05-19-18.pdf or call 916-422-6666.

MONDAY, MAY 21

CHOOSING AND TRAINING HELPERS FOR YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: This workshop will discuss who you should choose as your agent to make health care and financial decisions and the duties and responsibilities that they will have. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $3 required. Drop-in of $5 at the door. Class will be held Monday May 21, 2018 from 4 to 5 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

SELF-ACUPRESSURE (REFLEXOLOGY) Self-acupressure points are the same body points used in acupuncture. In this workshop, you will receive an acupressure chart of the meridan points which can be used to help you stay healthy and be provided with a summary of acupressure points and some techniques to stimulate pressure points or unblock the flow of energy. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $20 required. Drop-in of $25 at the door. Class will be held Wednesday, May 23 from 1:30-3:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

TUESDAY, MAY 29

CALIFORNIA RELAY: This workshop will discuss the California Relay service that is available 24/7 at no cost and allows individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking to make and receive phone calls. There will be demo phones available to show you what the phones look and feel like; also, the instructor will discuss the benefits of California Relay and answer any questions you may have. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Tuesday, May 29 from 1 to 2 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

37th ANNUAL TURTLERAMA: Live turtles and tortoises in front of Incredible Pets, 392 Florin Road. 11 to 4 p.m. Steve and Tracy will be bringing Ben, their 150-pound African Sulcata Tortoise again to show how large these cute little babies grow and are not so cute at that size. Join the Mile High Club with Wacko the Zappo and meet Just Jim the Jerk in person. There will be adoption information, lectures, educational displays, and plants free with any donation. Talk turtle with the experts. Free admission. For more information, call 916-421-1134.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

AROMATHERAPY: Learn simple techniques to use oils from flowers, herbs, and trees to promote health and well-being. Experience them in massage oils, ointments, atomizers, or baths. Health conditions such as arthritis, headaches and insomnia can be affected by aromatherapy which has been used by traditional schools of medicine. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $20 required. Drop-in of $25 at the door. Class will be held Wednesday, June 6 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED): The goal of CPTED is to reduce opportunities for crimes that may be caused by landscaping. This training will teach you about making your home the hardest home to break into. Examples include upgrading windows, replacing strike plate and hinge screws, installing alarm/video systems, etc. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Thursday, June 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

MONDAY, JUNE 11

THE BENEFIT OF HAVING A TRUST, WILL, AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY: This workshop will discuss the benefits of having a Trust, Will, and Power of Attorney for finances and healthcare, and how you can use them as tools to help family members avoid the stress and expense of dealing with the probate court in the event of your incapacity or upon passing. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $3 required. Drop-in of $5 at the door. Class will be held Monday, June 11, 2018 from 4:00-5:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

SEASONS OF LOVE: The best things in life are the memories of the people we love and the places we've been. Join us in this class to learn about pre-planning your celebration of life and leave a legacy behind. Participants are encouraged to bring their own cemetery or funeral plan; one of our advisor will review the plan with you. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $3 required. Drop-in of $5 at the door. Class will be held Tuesday June 12, 2018 from 3:00-4:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

RENFREE PARK SPRUCE-UP: Volunteers are needed to help spruce up Renfree Park! Help repainting, cleaning, light weeding. All equipment will be provided by Parks and Rec. Barbecue lunch to be provided by Parks Commissioner Devin Lavelle. All we need is you (wearing sunscreen and clothes suitable for painting). 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Renfree Park, 54 Cache River Cir, Sacramento, CA 95831

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE: The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association will be holding their second Local Business Roundtable on Thursday, June 28 from 6-8pm at the Robbie Waters Library. Topics for discussion include determining effective ways to market businesses to the local community and organized "shop local" campaigns within the neighborhood. Additional agenda topics can be emailed to info@pocketgreenhaven.org.

ONGOING

JFK BAND CROWDFUNDING FOR DC MEMORIAL DAY TRIP: JFK High School has a crowdfunding campaign they started to raise over $250,000 for their trip to DC in May to represent California at the nation's Memorial Day parade. Crowdfunding Site Link: https://www.crowdrise.com/jfk-marching-band-pathway-to-dc/fundraiser/johnfkennedyhighscho

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP: Every first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: Is your friend or family member in a domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking situation? This free, drop-in group is for you. Learn how to support your loved one, and receive some support yourself among people who are in the same situation. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

#METOO SUPPORT GROUP: Every third Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: This drop-in support group is free, confidential, open to all genders, and available to sexual assault survivors at any point in their healing. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

MUSIC AND MOTION AT BELLE COOLEDGE COMMUNITY CENTER: Rowena Alverto brings exercise classes for seniors with a combination of yoga, tai chi, zumba, for seniors on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. $3. 5699 South Land Park Drive.

LOW-COST VACCINATION CLINICS AT THE SSPCA: Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for vaccines; no appointments necessary. Vaccines include:
1) DAPP vaccine ($20) — DAPP stands for Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus. While important for dogs of every age, puppies are susceptible to the Parovirus.
2) Bordetella ($20) -- often referred to as the kennel cough vaccine, this helps protect against a strain of bacteria that can cause kennel cough. Many boarding kennels and groomers require this vaccine for services,
3) FVRCP vaccination ($20) prevents three potentially deadly airborne viruses: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia in cats,
4) Rabies shot ($6) -- this vaccine is required by animal control or to license your dog. The first vaccine is valid for one year, subsequent vaccines if given on time will last 3 years.
If you are 65 or older, vaccinations are free! The Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is located at 6201 Florin Perkins Road, Sacramento.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER: This class is designed for beginner or students with limited or no experience with computer. Learn about computer hardware, system components, software and more. Pre-payment of $30 and pre-registration required. Class will start from January 16 thru 25, 2018 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

ARTISTS' AND CRAFTERS' GROUP – Held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, this meet-up was started to allow participants from past and current "In Creative Company" classes to continue meeting. Any artists or crafters who are interested in this social group are welcome--just bring whatever you're working on and join us! 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

See Events, page 19



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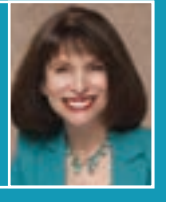

Events:

Continued from page 18

THE CLARKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND INVITES YOU TO JOIN: How about dusting off that horn and getting involved! The band is a group of musicians that enjoys sharing a love of music with each other and our communities. The band is looking to expand the ensemble and wants to welcome those who are interested and who play a standard concert band instrument. The band meets Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Delta High School, 52810 Netherlands Ave., Clarksburg. For more information contact Randall Veirs, Delta High School Band Director at rveirs@rdusd.org

FREE LINE DANCE CLASS: Every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. "Two Left Feet" dance class for beginners. If you think you have "two left feet" this class is for you. Anyone can participate in this fun activity. Friendly group of people. Drop-ins welcome. Sponsored by ACC Senior Services. Class held every Thursday at ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way. First class is always free. For more information call (916) 393-9026 ext 330. www.accsv.org

BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY VIDEO GAMES AND VIDEO GAME SYSTEMS DRIVE: The Belle Cooledge Library is looking for video games and working game systems for our afterschool teen space program for next year. If you have any video games or working game systems that you would like to donate please bring them to the Belle Cooledge Library and we will provide a tax receipt. What is Teen Space? Join other area teens in our community room for our afterschool Teen Space! Hang out, geek out and mess around with friends and snacks! Seriously, what could be better? Teen Space occurs weekdays from 3 - 5 PM (except Thursdays 1:30 - 5 p.m.), is free, and open to teens between the ages of 12 - 18. (During the school year) All Library programs are free and open to the public a library card is not required! Belle Cooledge Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dive. Library hours are Tuesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR "SUNDAY JAZZ": Come and join our Sunday Jazz event committee for events held the Second Sunday of every month at the Elks Lodge. If any of you would like to volunteer and enjoy listening to good music at the same time, please let organizers know. Hours to volunteer would be 11:30 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. Please contact Clayton Hablitz at: Clayton39.ch@gmail.com Cell number 916 706-9837 or email Lori548@yahoo.com. Cell number 650-200-8570. Come on down & enjoy the fun!

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION GATHERING: Every Wednesday morning from 7 to 10 am., join neighbors at Cafe Latte, 7600 Greenhaven Drive, for conversation and fun. Find the group back near the piano.

"ALL IN" SENIOR SOCIAL HOUR – The Pocket Library will provide games, refreshments, conversation, and fun on the last Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.! Games available to play include poker, chess, Scrabble, checkers, Dominos, Mahjong, cribbage, and more! Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH SACRAMENTO: The friendliest club in Sacramento, the Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Casa Garden, 2760 Sutterville Road.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET AT THE ELKS LODGE, NO. 6: From 8:30 to 11 a.m., enjoy eggs, omelets, corn beef hash, bacon or sausage. 6446 Riverside Blvd.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SACRAMENTO SOUTH: Meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Aviators Restaurant, Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd. For more information, call Dee at 341-7852.

JOB COACH APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT POCKET LIBRARY – Make an appointment to meet one-on-one with a volunteer job coach and get help with online job searching, using library databases, interviewing tips, resume writing, and more. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please ask at the library service desk or call 916-264-2920 during open hours. Appointment times are available for most Wednesdays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

TECH HELP APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT POCKET LIBRARY – Have a technology question or problem? Sign up for a one-on-one technology help session with our staff. We can help with basic computer, Internet or e-mail questions, and/or get you started with library services like e-books or e-magazines! Stop by the service desk or call 916-264-2920 during open hours to make an appointment. Appointment times are available for most Wednesdays between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Thursdays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon, at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

BABY/TODDLER STORYTIME AT POCKET LIBRARY – Babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) and their caretakers are invited to join us for songs and rhymes. Arrive extra early or stay later for extra social time with other children and parents. Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

KNIT TOGETHER AT POCKET LIBRARY – Love to knit? Want to learn? Join us for expert advice, great conversation and more. All crafters are welcome, not just knitters! Every Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

BABY STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY –Nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. For children up to about 18 months old. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive.

TODDLER STORYTIME BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Toddlers ages one to three and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and play group. Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Preschoolers ages three and older and their caregivers are invited for fun songs, stories, fingerplays and a play activity. Thursdays at 11 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

SING ALONG WITH MISTER COOPER- Join neighborhood favorite Mister Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for families. Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ANNOUNCED: The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. The program offers 14 categories of scholarships ranging from $1,000 - $2,500 each with varying eligibility requirements. Categories include: agriculture, art, academic excellence, business, culinary/hospitality/event management, education, international relations, trade school, viticulture and enology. Applicants may apply for one scholarship category of their choice per year and will be evaluated based on academics, community service, quality of essay and recommendation. Top scholarship winners in select categories may be invited to compete for the $5,000 Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship Scholarships are not renewable; however, students may reapply each year as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is a collaboration between the Friends of the California State Fair, the California Exposition & State Fair, the California State Fair Agricultural Advisory Council, the Ironstone Concours Foundation, Blue Diamond Growers and Western Fairs Association. International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS), an independent scholarship management company, hosts the online application process and disburses awards for the program. The deadline to apply is March 2, 2018. Learn more at CAStateFair.org/scholarship. For questions about the Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program, please email scholarship@calexpo.com.

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