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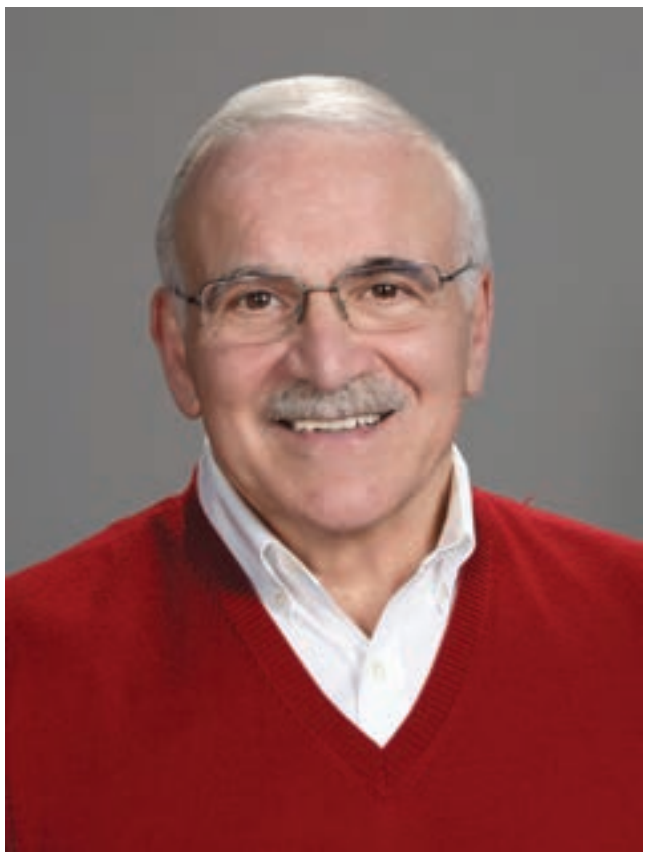

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Our elected leaders have pride in the Pocket



The late Jay Jugoz, who owned the Riverside Clubhouse, shown with Devin Lavelle and Will Cannady of the Pocket Greenhaven Community Association.

By Devin Lavelle

Pride of the Pocket, the Pocket-Greenhaven Community Association's signature annual event, celebrating the people who make this community such a wonderful place to live, work and play, is coming soon.

Originally scheduled for May at the Didion School/ Lewis Park Amphitheater, the onset of COVID-19 forced us to delay. We hoped conditions would have improved sufficiently by September to allow us to hold the event in person, but the need for safety dictates made that impossible.

Cancellation was never an option, however, and the community's response to COVID-19 has given us so many more reasons to have pride in this wonderful community and the countess ways people have stepped up to support our neighbors, support businesses and to keep everyone safe.

In these times, as our city, state and country face so many challenges, I hope that a fun reminder of all the positive, caring people we are surrounded with will help uplift us and make us better able to confront those challenges with care and with empathy -- in a way that helps bring us together to achieve a better future for us all.

We hope you will join us for this virtual event on September 24. Free "tickets" are available at pride.pocketgreenhaven.org. And if you would like to help us continue to advance our mission of "promoting, protecting and informing an exceptional community" please join us at join.pocketgreenhaven.org.

My good friend, and PGCA President, Will Cannady will unveil the people the Community Association is recognizing in the next issue of Pocket News. Today, I'm proud to share with you the people and groups our elected leaders have chosen to recognize:

Senator Richard Pan selected Pocket Area Churches Together for remembering

see POCKET page 3

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Cover photo by:
Annin Piper



The late Robbie Waters, center, is being recognized by Jim Cooper for a Pride of the Pocket award.



Pocket:

continued from page 2

local seniors with an Independence Day car parade of senior homes:

Dr. Pan's office expressed a strong desire to recognize PACT for their commitment to keeping our community's seniors connected, while also utilizing physical distancing practices to keep them healthy. PACT organized a parade of decorated cars that toured local senior homes, bringing joy and lots of smiling faces to the community.

Assemblymember Jim Cooper selected the late Robbie Waters for a lifetime of service as Councilmember, Sheriff, Police Officer and Veteran:

"Sacramento lost a very good man and longtime public servant. Mr. Waters swore me in as a Deputy at the Sheriff's Department and represented the Pocket area of AD 9 for over a decade on the City Council. He never wavered in his support of our community and always fought for what was right. My thoughts and prayers are with Robbie's family, friends, and the entire Pocket-Greenhaven area. He will truly be missed."

Supervisor Patrick Kennedy selected the late Jay Jugoz and honored him with the following statement:

"This year will be a little different than in the past. Unfortunately, we cannot get together to celebrate Pride in the Pocket with our neighbors. However, I am excited to be honoring Jason Jugoz at the Pride of the Pocket Awards. Jason established a great gathering spot for Pocket-Greenhaven in the Riverside Sports Bar and truly gave back to the community he was a part of. He was a loving husband and father, a friend to many, and is missed."

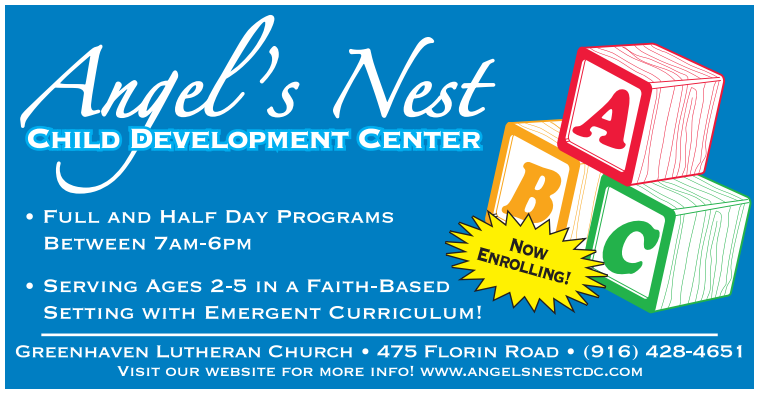
Councilmember Rick Jennings selected Meals on Wheels by ACC:

"I am proud to award the Pride of the Pocket to Meals on Wheels by ACC Senior Services. They were established in the Pocket in 2010 and provide need based meals to over 2,000 seniors every day. They do all of this work with over 500 volunteers. Their volunteer drivers travel an average of 2,600 miles per week to make sure our communities seniors have the nutrition they need. They even have a partnership that allows them to include pet food. In addition, every volunteer and employee is trained to recognize issues with their customers so they can get help from the proper authorities. Meals on Wheels by ACC Senior Services delivers more than just food, they deliver food, companionship and safety. We are lucky to have them based in our community and they are truly a source of pride for us all."

SMUD Director Rosanna Herber selected the School of Engineering & Science's Patrick Bohman:

Pat Bohman currently serves as the Vice-Principal at the School of Engineering and Sciences and was an essential part of creating the award winning engineering program that has led the school to twice be recognized as a California Distinguished School, the highest honor a California school can receive. In collaboration with SMUD, Mr. Bohman has helped our students participate in their annual Solar Regatta event in which students compete to create solar powered canoes. SMUD also helps students better understand the concepts related to various forms of energy storage which in turn are included in the students' curriculum.

We hope you are as proud of these people and of our community that we are. And we hope that you will join us on September 24. Please don't forget to get your free "tickets" at pride.pocketgreenhaven.org





Featured Business: Tamashii Ramen

By Devin Lavelle

The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association's featured business is Tamashii Ramen, join us as we get to know its co-owner and chef Lucas Luo:

Devin: Hi Lucas, thanks for taking the time. I enjoyed a nice takeout lunch from your restaurant recently, can't wait to try more! Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and your team.

Lucas: There are three of us, myself, Chi and Ka. Chi and I both went to local Sacramento City College. Ka went to CK McClatchy high school and Sacramento State. Our favorite memories all happened in the same plaza. All three of us used to hang out at the local Starbucks and late night food after July 4th fireworks at Shari's. Some of the best memories all happened in the same plaza and neighborhood growing up.

Devin: That's awesome. It's great to see local childhood friends work together and find ways to contribute to the community.

I have always enjoyed ramen but am far from an expert in it. Can you tell me about how you make your ramen and what makes it so great?

Lucas: What makes ramen special is the broth. Our signature Tamashii seafood broth and Tonkotsu pork bone broth really set us apart. Our Tamashii signature seafood broth is a fusion seafood broth that we spend over 8 hrs of seasoning and cooking to perfection. It is served with pork chashu, a shrimp skewer and a delicious soft boiled egg, making it a really great surf and turf option.

We also love our Tonkotsu pork bone broth. We spend over 10+ hours of seasoning and cooking to perfect this authentic Japanese favorite. It comes with pork chashu, black garlic oil, corn fish cakes and the same perfectly soft boiled egg.

The amount of work and high quality ingredients we put in our broth is what really sets us apart.

Devin: Those both sound delicious! So what has proven most popular with customers so far?

Lucas: The customer favorite, our most popular item is our namesake, the Tamashii ramen. A close number two is our Spicy Tonkotsu, for guests who want to kick it up a notch. They are just that great.

Devin: Definitely, I've enjoyed the dishes I tried! You mentioned you're adding sushi? That's exciting – and an especially great option before fall cools off our weather.

Lucas: Yes!!! We just added sushi. So far the customer favorite our Tamashii roll. It has spicy tuna, imitation crab and a crunchy tempura shrimp on the inside with avocado, tuna, salmon, albacore, sprinkled with tobiko and sesame seeds and served with a spicy cream sauce. The B.O.B roll is number two. It's really refreshing with tempura shrimp and cream cheese inside and seared salmon on the outside. The California roll is the kids' favorite!!

Devin: That sounds great, I really want to try the Tamashii roll. I'm getting hungry thinking about all the food, so let's move on to your experience opening earlier this year. You opened last winter, how were things going?

Lucas: Yes we just opened in early February. It is always a challenge opening a new restaurant and developing regular customers, but the winter was perfect for ramen and our customers seemed to be really enjoying it, telling their friends and coming back for more.

Devin: That's everything you can hope for. I can't imagine how hard it must have been to have to deal with COVID in the middle of that.

Lucas: Yeah, it was really devastating. But the health and safety of our community is the most important thing.



We took our time in re-opening to ensure we could keep everyone safe. It was scary, thinking about how long we had to close for. Because we still owe rent even if we're not open for those months.

Since re-opening we had to cut down to only two people working at all time now, me and Owen. We are doing whatever we can to stay above water.

Devin: That's really difficult. It's scary to see your dream on the line and with just the two of you, you must be working so hard. How are things going now?

Lucas: Yeah, it's really hard. Things are slowly getting better. We have a lot more people than when we first reopened. We still have a long way to go before we get back to what we had built up to in early March. But we are still optimistic.

Devin: I'm glad you are able to keep your positive point of view. Is there anything else our neighbors should know about you?

Lucas: Yes! We really like to feed hungry neighbors! We can't wait to meet more of our neighbors!

Devin: That's great to hear – and right now I'll have a Tamashii roll to take home for lunch!

Lucas: You need to try our signature Brussels sprouts too! You'll love them! (And I did!)

Local businesses interested in being featured can visit featured.pocketgreenhaven.org.



City Council OKs West Broadway revitalization plan

Plan allows for possible, future demolition of nationally recognized, historic housing project

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

The Sacramento City Council on Aug. 24 voted in favor of a revitalization plan that could lead to the demolition of a large group of historically significant buildings at the west end of Broadway.

Built in the early 1940s and originally known as New Helvetia, this 360-acre public housing project was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. The site is currently known as Alder Grove.

Located along the south side of Broadway, between 6th Street and Muir Way, this complex of 62 brick veneer-faced buildings is the city's oldest public housing.

Although built as public housing, the structures initially served as defense housing during World War II and have spent the rest of their existence being utilized for their original purpose.

Adding to this 360-unit complex's historical significance is its connection to Nathaniel Colley, the first black attorney to establish a private law practice in Sacramento and the former legal counsel of the local chapter of the NAACP – the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

In the early 1950s, after becoming aware that certain, mostly black residents were being segregated in 16 units at New Helvetia, Colley filed a lawsuit against the city's housing authority that led to the end that practice.

Despite efforts by various community members, consisting of activists, historians and other citizens who hoped to convince the council to not approve the city's proposed revitalization plan for the area – as it is written, with no guaranteed protection for any of the historic New Helvetia structures – the council ultimately voted, 8-0, in favor of that plan. Council Member Allen Warren was present during the meeting but did not respond to a request for his vote, possibly due to an audio issue.

The plan – the West Broadway Specific Plan, which includes the New Helvetia Historic District – is a document designed to set policy for future development for the next 20 years, within a 279-acre area that is generally bounded by Highway 50 and Broadway on the north; Muir Way and 5th Street on the east; 4th Avenue on the south; and the Sacramento River on the west.

The plan also allows for other income-level housing in this area.

According to a city press release, the plan is designed with the intention of improving the area's connectivity with Land Park, the Sacramento River and the central part of the city. Within the plan are new city streets that would run through Alder Grove and necessitate the demolition of its historic structures.

The boundaries of the plan also include the 391-unit Marina Vista low-income, government-owned housing project, which, along with Alder Grove, is managed by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). Marina Vista was built in the 1950s.

That agency is the largest public funder and provider of affordable housing in Sacramento.

SHRA Executive Director La Shelle Dozier told the council that maintaining the agency's public housing structures has been a struggle.

"There has been a disinvestment and it has been difficult for us to maintain them with the resources that the federal government has provided," she said.

Maintenance issues have been an ongoing concern for many Alder Grove residents. Those issues include plumbing and electrical problems and a lack of air conditioning in some of the units.

Because of the ongoing deterioration of Alder Grove and Marina Vista, Dozier said that "something drastic" will have to be done in the future, whether that be renovation or demolishing those buildings.

Although SHRA obtained U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) authorization for the rehabilitation of all of its public housing throughout the county, that plan does not guarantee the preservation of this area's public housing.

Because of the larger size of Alder Grove, rehabilitation of those buildings would not begin until 2030. Marina Vista's rehabilitation is scheduled to begin in 2023.

Dozier noted that the exterior of the buildings would be preserved through these renovations.

Council Member Steve Hansen, whose District 4 includes the West Broadway plan area, stressed that this plan does not include a requirement for the demolition of the historic New Helvetia buildings.

"In the end, it's not clear that we're going to demolish any of the buildings, because there is no project," he said. "However, it is clear that in the future, these conversations are going to have to continue.

"And whether it's the (Nathaniel) Colley Coalition plan (to save a large portion of the buildings), which is feasible under the proposal before us, an alternative plan that changes the site, only through renovation or something else, this plan encompasses all of those options."

Hansen added that whatever happens with this area's historic public housing buildings, public housing will remain a part of that area.

see BROADWAY page 8



Photos by Lance Armstrong

Sacramento resident Simon Russell holds a sign showing his support for the preservation of the historic New Helvetia buildings at Alder Grove, on Aug. 24.

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Michelle is a former long term state employee, regular instructor for Sierra College, lecturer for multiple universities, veterans groups, one stops, job fairs, and arbitrator for BBB.

New Instant Rebate Saves $150 on a Weather-Based "Smart" Sprinkler Controller

By Regional Water Authority Staff

Residents can now save $150 on a Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller through a new instant rebate program offered by the Regional Water Authority and local water providers.

The Rachio 3 Controller acts like a thermostat for a sprinkler system, using local weather conditions to adjust how long sprinklers run. The controller automatically reduces sprinkler runtimes when the weather is cooler and increases them when the temperatures rise. The controller can also be managed from a smart phone with the Rachio app.

It's estimated that replacing a standard controller with a WaterSense-labeled smart controller like the Rachio 3 can save an average home about 13,500 gallons of water per year.

The Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller typically retails for about $220 for an eight-zone system and $270 for a 16-zone system, but both are being offered at a reduced rate of $75 plus tax. (Installation is not included.)

Rebates are available for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Rebate details, eligibility requirements and a link to purchase the controller are available at BeWaterSmart.info.

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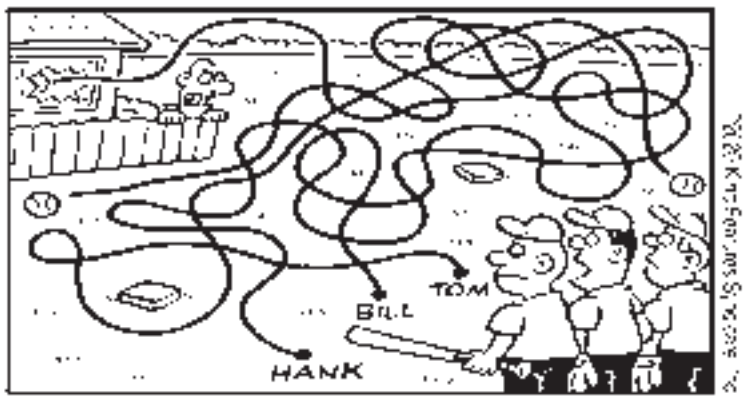
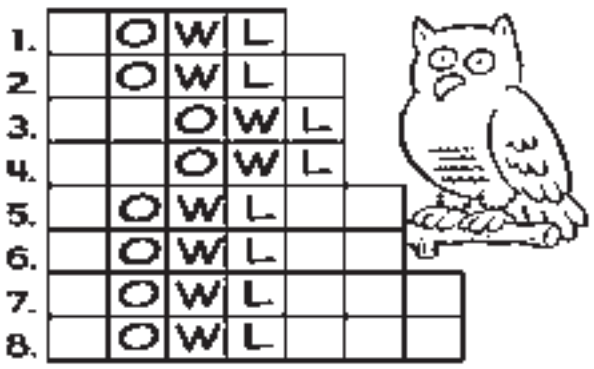


A COSTLY HOME RUN! Can you guess which player broke Mr. Hoffman's window with the game-winning home run?

Answer: Bill was the busy (?) batter.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER!

Are you as wise as this old owl? To the left is a list of eight words, each of which contains the word "owl." Using the following hints, see if you can figure out what the words are:

1. A hood.
2. A lawn game.
3. What police cars do.
4. Look of frowning disapproval.
5. Type of hunter.
6. Type of monkey
7. Type of knot.
8. Hair that sticks up or out.

Answers: 1. Cowl. 2. Bowls. 3. Prowl. 4. Scowl. 5. Fowler. 6. Howler. 7. Bowline. 8. Cowlick.

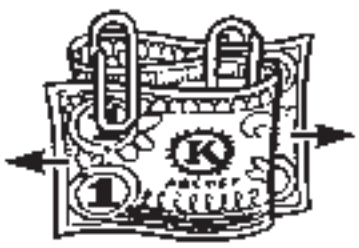
A UNIQUE STATE! Professor Flunkem wants to know which state begins with, ends with, and has every other letter the same.

Answer: Alabama



'CLIP' YOUR FRIENDS WITH THIS ONE!

Bet your friends that you can place two paper clips an inch apart and then make them link together without touching either one. SECRET: Fold a bill and place two paper clips on it as shown at right. Now, take the two ends of the bill and jerk them apart. The clips will fly off the bill linked together.



Bike and scooter share returning



Sacramentans may have seen shared bikes and scooters back on local streets, because, as of August 29, Lime, relaunched JUMP bikes. Through an agreement with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Lime will take over as the exclusive regional bikeshare operator for the region. Sacramento and West Sacramento are the fifth relaunch of JUMP bikes in the U.S. following Lime's acquisition of the JUMP brand in May, with several others anticipated in the coming months. Lime will launch 200 bikes immediately across the two cities and ramp up to 600 bikes based on rider demand.

"Welcome back to one of our urban core's most popular transportation innovations," said West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon. "More and more of our residents and visitors are getting around now on foot or by pedal, and scooters and bikeshare are key part of that climate-friendly micomobility portfolio. With fewer cars on the road and more folks out walking and biking than ever, there has never been a safer time for scooter and bikeshare on West Sacramento streets. Lime's service area will include all of West Sacramento and we will be working with them to increase the number of bikes and scooters in the city to ensure micromobility is an option for everyone who wants to use it."

JUMP bikes will initially be available through the Lime app. They will return to the Uber app in the next few weeks as well, at which point they will be available through either app.

Pricing for JUMP starts at $1 to unlock, and 20 cents per minute to ride. JUMP bikes are also available to those enrolled in the Lime Access program for lower-income individuals, priced at just $5 for an annual membership that allows for up to five free, 30-minute rides per day.

Lime also offers free rides of 30 minutes up to five times a day for public health and safety workers under its Lime-Aid program. Monthly plans that bring down the per trip cost for frequent riders include $59.99 for 25 trips and $49.99 for unlimited unlocks and 200 minutes.

"With JUMP bikes returning to the Sacramento region, residents now have more options to travel sustainably throughout the cities," said Karla Owunwanne, Government Relations Director at Lime. "We've found that riders prefer options, with bikes and scooters now available in one place for different trip lengths. Users can now turn to Lime for all trips under five miles in the SACOG region. With more modes at their fingertips, Sacramento area riders will help make streets safer and reduce emissions by replacing car trips, doing their part to prevent increased car usage from becoming the new normal."

"The relaunch of bike share in the region is key to helping us reach our climate action and equity goals related to transportation," stated Sacramento Vice Mayor Jeff Harris. "As our community gradually reopens it's imperative that we have clean, accessible, and reliable transportation alternatives that make it easy for people to leave their cars at home. Bike share is a fun, safe, and convenient way to get around our city."

"The City of Sacramento is excited to see the relaunch of JUMP bikes in our region," said City of Sacramento Transportation Planning Manager Jennifer Donlon Wyant. "The City supports and welcomes shared rideables in Sacramento as they provide convenient and climate-friendly transportation options for our residents." \

Given the ongoing threat of COVID-19, Lime continues to closely focus on safety, with new protocols on cleaning and sanitizing vehicles and facilities:

Lime recently completed a white paper in collaboration with an independent medical professional that assessed the available research on COVID transmission and found that shared bikes and scooters were the safest publicly-available transport option to avoid COVID.

Lime has enhanced its cleaning methods and increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting bikes and scooters in line with government guidance for shared and public transport.

In Lime's offices and warehouses, it is distributing hand sanitizer, masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE). All mechanics and operators in the field are required to wear gloves and wash their hands regularly.

Lime is following government advice as well as advice from other global health organizations to collect the most up-to-the-minute information to ensure the actions we're taking are comprehensive and expedient. Based on this information, we will decide to continue, pause, or suspend operations in certain markets.

In addition, Lime will provide in-app reminders of our "THRIVE" health and safety best practices, including:

-Take precautions — inspect the bike to make sure the wheels, brakes, throttle, lights, and frame are all in good working condition.

-Hands — wash your hands or use hand sanitizer which is at least 60% alcohol-based when you arrive at your final destination. Wear gloves when you can.

-Ride Solo for safety and social distancing; maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others.

-Identify bike lanes and be aware of traffic lights and signs.

-Vigilance - remain alert of your surroundings and potential road and safety hazards.

-Enjoy Responsibly - be respectful of other road users, including pedestrians, other cyclists and scooter riders, and always wear a helmet.

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Photos by Lance Armstrong

A group of locals portraying the iconic Rosie the Riveter character of World War II are pictured in front of the Alder Grove public housing project, south of Broadway. Built in the early 1940s, these structures were originally used as defense housing during that war.

Broadway:

continued from page 5

"This plan retains the public housing and brings more mixed-use and affordable senior housing into the project," he said.

He noted that the Choice Neighborhoods initiative plan requires that the public housing units "be replaced at least one for one."

Hansen recommended that the Alder Grove site include a center for teaching children about segregation and community activists, "like Nathaniel Colley." He also suggested that Sacramento's future, $4 million courthouse be named after Colley, and that it include a civil rights exhibit.

Contrary to other members of the council, Warren referred to the revitalization plan as the "wrong project at the wrong time," and a "step in the wrong direction."

"The burden that will be bore by this project moving forward is going to be a major displacement issue for African Americans and people of color and lower-income people," he said. "It is inconclusive what will happen to people that live in this project currently.

"There are no guarantees about if any of them will come back or even find housing. There (are thousands of) people on the waiting list for housing right now. I've not seen anything that would assure them the ability to be in Sacramento, let alone in this community."

see REVITALIZATION page 17



People hold signs in support of the preservation of New Helvetia on a portion of a sidewalk just north of Alder Grove.

Robbie Waters: An Accomplished City Council Member





By Patricia A. Clark

With the passing of former Sacramento City Council Member Robbie Waters on July 27, several articles have been written giving a summary of his public service over the years. And there were many years Robbie devoted to public service as a Sacramento Police Department Officer, Sacramento County Sheriff and then City Councilmember for District 7.

Many readers, long-time residents, knew Robbie as an effective council member who took care of business and that is the perspective I wanted to share with you, as Robbie's District Director at City Council for the full four terms he served (1994-2010).

Readers will recognize some of the projects and events in this article, many of you were part of them and most importantly all of you benefited from them. Robbie worked hard and with enthusiasm to serve his constituents well.

Drive for Public Service. Anybody who thought that Robbie Waters was just dallying in the city council seat when he was first elected in 1994 was soon corrected.

Although he had many years with the Sacramento Police Department, and then elected as Sacramento County Sheriff, and had already proved his chops in public service, he was dedicated to his city council responsibilities.

This characteristic was nowhere more evident than in the standards he set for the office.

Foremost among these was the requirement to acknowledge every question or inquiry within 24 hours and to provide a time frame for the expected response back to the constituent. Another was the importance of getting a response back to every inquiry, even if the answer we had to provide was negative. We could not always satisfy everyone's desires but everyone deserved a thorough and professional response.

His drive for service to the public was irrepressible.

Non-partisan office. Readers of recent articles probably get the idea that Robbie walked around the council office with a scarlet "R" on his chest but nothing could be farther from the truth.

Yes, he was a registered Republican. Robbie's worldview could be characterized as socially moderate and fiscally conservative. The City Council offices are non-partisan and truthfully, state and national politics rarely intervened, there was much too much to do at the local level.

Much more important was the changing coalition of council members supporting a particular issue of the hour. With his quick wit and effusive sense of humor, Robbie was quick to make friends – sometimes really good friends – with others on the dais.

Contrary to portrayal as a rigid traditionalist, Robbie was open to new ideas, even controversial new ideas, such as when Public Works staff identified Rush River and Windbridge as an ideal candidate for a traffic roundabout. The public would be skeptical.

After grilling staff several times and being assured this intersection was a perfect candidate, Robbie agreed and, with the decision, supported the roundabout and encouraged people to adjust to using it.

see ROBBIE page 10



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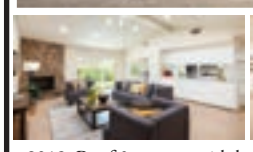

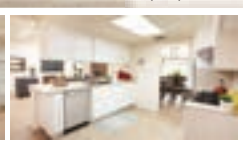

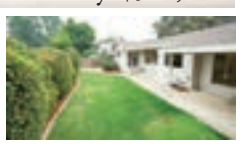

2019: Roof & gutters with leaf screens. 2017: Remodeled master bathroom with hardwired towel warmer. Master has newer 220V ductless AC with heat pump & newer patio slider. LVP flooring with cork underlayment & low to zero VOC. Hall bath updated with quartz countertop. Kitchen updates: cooktop, dishwasher, vent hood, ovens and sink. Other upgrades: interior & exterior paint, tankless water heater, whole house water filtration system with UV & reverse osmosis, garage door opener, thermostat, refinished white cabinets, steel framed wide gates (key pad for 1 gate), HVAC blower motor, lights throughout, toilets, recessed lights, ceiling fans, pine baseboards, storage room with barn door, landscaping, and raised planter box filled with organic soil. Sprinklers, garage door opener, thermostat, HVAC are all WIFI. Seller does not use any toxic chemicals (glyphosate) in yards and water to backyard is filtered.

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Robbie:

continued from page 9

In the 2000s when medical marijuana issue was in the headlines, Robbie had opposed medical marijuana on the basis of it being a potential gateway drug. However, he publicly changed his mind about medical marijuana after meeting with HIV/AIDS activists and learning how medical marijuana was effective at stopping pain for some patients.

Sometimes he was open to new ideas and had to drag the rest of the council along with him. A good example of this is the decision to add helicopters to the Sacramento Police Department. Robbie would have chats with a limited number of council members and staff about the obvious benefits a helicopter program could bring to the city.

This was in an era when many council members still regarded Sacramento as a sleepy, small town and they adamantly thought we didn't need additional tools for the police department.

It took a lot of education to get folks to understand that helicopters are what is known as a "force multiplier" for law enforcement; the helicopter provides benefits equivalent to multiple officers on the ground.

With what we know today about the helicopters and their benefits to public safety, it is hard to imagine that there was such strong resistance but there was and Robbie worked closely with the department and at council meetings and workshops to educate many

see WATERS page 11

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Waters:

continued from page 10

folks in City Hall, ultimately leading to approval of the program.

Public Safety. With Robbie's background in law enforcement, public safety was always a priority for his city council district and he found consistent support from the community on this issue.

Robbie launched a sustained effort to support Neighborhood Associations and Neighborhood Watch groups. Robbie used every opportunity to support existing neighborhood associations, and help residents start new ones. During Robbie's first term on the council (1994-1998), he realized there were not that many Neighborhood Watch groups and we immediately went to work.

Our stance was pro-active, helping new groups, such as Windward Way, Steamboat, Desertwind, Monte Brazil NW, devising agendas for their first meeting, working with SPD, arranging for guest speakers, and helping the organizers create rosters and phone trees to stay in touch. Teaching them how to sustain the organization over the years became important with the addition of new topics, more guest speakers and more email communication.

Similarly, the annual National Night Out event to mark police – community partnership against crime was a big deal in our office. Robbie's direction was to strongly support groups wanting to participate and we found multiple ways to support them, including providing "goodie bags" to help their event. We always enjoyed "making the rounds" to visit with the Neighborhood Watch groups on National Night Out and many a good photo was taken, and many a good idea discussed, at those events. In Robbie's office, these were not just events on the calendar, this was the bread and butter of improving public safety in California's capital city.

Having modernized the county's 911 emergency system as Sheriff, Robbie was a huge supporter of the new City Operator system (now called the 311 system). For several years, he opened all community meetings with a short promotion of the system and we distributed thousands of the refrigerator magnets advertising the new number. I bet some of you still have these popular magnets.

Pocket Parade. The genesis for the July 4th Pocket Parade was a suggestion from constituent Jeff Dominguez and Robbie immediately agreed to support the parade, the first of which was 1995.

Of course, the parade needed city permits and city help such as police traffic control and special events street blocking, which Robbie facilitated.

Every year, we looked forward to the fun of working with the parade volunteer group (shout out to Linda Pohl and Kathy Garcia) and seeing the parade entry applications flood into the office.

A wonderful community tradition, Robbie brought many elected officials and city staff to participate over the years. Despite the pandemic postponement this year, the parade is an important community benefit and tradition that future council members will do well to uphold.

The parade enhanced community identity and new signs furthered that sense of community.

Working with talented City Public Works staff, Robbie added the welcome sign in the median on Pocket Road at Greenhaven Drive with its artistic river scene.

Later, he went to the north side of the community and designed the lighted welcome sign on the pedestrian overpass over Riverside Boulevard at Zacharias Park.

Low-key projects. There were some projects Robbie undertook that were very worthwhile but were not high profile and didn't receive media attention.

One example of this is the experiment with French drains in the mid-late 1990s, installed on streets near the river to alleviate the water seeping over sidewalks that created slippery algae. Clearly a hazard, the seepage was a naturally occurring problem since the homes were built. A devilish puzzle to tackle, Robbie and Department of Utilities (DOU) studied potential solutions, with the smart DOU engineers deciding to try a pilot program of variations on French drains to find the most successful fit for our problem. Eventually a model was chosen and each year more drains were installed in the problem areas until the problem was under control.

Another example was the replacement of playground equipment in all district parks, also in the mid-late 1990s. With funds available, the goal was to upgrade to safer equipment, guided by community input from the neighborhood. Each year we would celebrate a new playground at multiple parks. Those were super fun events. Within a couple years, all neighborhoods in the district had a park with new, safe playground equipment guided by neighborhood priorities.

Undoubtedly his best-named project, the annual fall "Love Your Levee" clean-up at Garcia Bend brought community volunteers and parks staff together to clean up trash and debris along the levee before the high water of winter. Rotary and numerous scout troops consistently participated and the event tapped into the sensitivity in our community for the river and levee.

see COUNCIL page 12

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Council:

continued from page 11



Green Waste. Robbie and Steve Cohn led the battle, and it was a battle, on containerizing green waste. Our own self-inflicted flood threat, having green waste loose in the street plugged up street drains, created obstacles in bike lanes, cost the city big dollars to maintain the claw, and contributed to unclean streets. A pilot program where residents could try the new containers was the tool to win public sentiment in the long run, along with a multi-faceted public education campaign about the merits of containerizing. No quick fix here, it took years of education and persuasion but was finally successful.

Long-term Projects. Many district improvements took a lot of work to negotiate. An example is getting a joint use agreement in place for a community library. Robbie was firm in his conviction that the Pocket/Greenhaven area needed a library and he was just as confident that a library would be well loved and well used by our community.

The only available vacant parcel of adequate size was the school district owned parcel at Gloria and Swale River. What community members don't realize is Robbie's patient courtship of the school district which secured the library.

Long before there was a Friends of the Library or any notion of an architectural sketch, Robbie was working with the district to find a way to get a library on the land.

Over many years and with no bright prospect of success, staff attended meetings of the district's Facilities Committee while Robbie talked with elected school board members. Joint use projects are tricky because they wed two different organizations with their own priorities, bureaucracies and procedures. Residents do not realize how close the district came to selling the land to developers. Worse, the district considered turning the land into a school bus storage and maintenance facility.

These controversies swirled among the underlying long-time controversy that the district did not have a middle school in the community.

Ultimately in 2008, with the partnership of school board members, Robbie was able to negotiate a joint use project. Adding complication to the negotiations, but benefit to the community, was the district's positive decision to build a School of Engineering

see MEMBERS page 13



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Members:

continued from page 12

and Sciences next to the library. City library and parks staff, who had experience with joint use projects, were integral to the negotiations and their expertise was key.

It also took years of saving funds from his council allotted special events and discretionary funding accounts but Robbie built up a nice nest egg over the fifteen years he was saving, which was supplemented by a council approved Community Reinvestment CIP funding allocation.

The best part of library planning were the trips with library staff to visit new libraries in Northern California, which resulted in our library having modern amenities such as a community room, children's room, teen room, computer area, and book sale space in the lobby. It was a new library in Palo Alto that Library staffer Lois Ross and Robbie drew the most inspiration from, along with hundreds of photos.

U.S. Flag on the Water Tower. One of Robbie's favorite projects was the 2006 installation of the U.S. Flag on the Freeport Water Tower. The tower, perched at the southern city limits, acts as a gateway to California's capital city along I-5 and so the U.S. flag is a perfect symbol.

Robbie thoroughly enjoyed working on the project with the Department of Utilities (DOU) staff who were enthusiastic and determined to overcome substantial engineering challenges of mounting a huge flagpole atop the tower. The scale of the tower and the flagpole were beyond the customary scale. The project was widely supported by private donations.

The flag project had a spontaneous outburst of support and the details are worth sharing.

On the summer morning when it was time for DOU staffer Bill Miller and his crew to hoist the flag for the first time, Robbie waited at the bottom of the tower to see how it went. It takes a while for staff to climb all the way up there so he wasn't sure when the flag was hoisted, at first, as he couldn't see from the base, so he waited.

After a while, he started hearing vehicle horns from the freeway. Car horns, then truck horns. Then really long, loud truck horns. Then it became a huge cacophony of horns that didn't stop.

Bill Miller and his crew reappeared and confirmed that as soon as the flag went up, the horns started. Motorists and locals clearly recognized the addition of the flag and were honking their approval, and then his email and voicemails overflowed with a torrent of positive messages.

We all were a little emotional realizing the support the flag project generated.

The scope of this article is limited by nature.

There is not enough room to cover the planning of Delta Shores, which changed the city's southern limits with its expansion of restaurant choices, entertainment and retail, or the controversy of the proposed McDonald's drive-thru at Florin and Riverside, or the flood control projects and education so important for this community, or so many other projects and issues.

Effective representation. A final hallmark of effective representation was consistent communication to community members.

The earliest strategy was a monthly column in Pocket News, which kept constituents updated on various projects, special events and upcoming issues.

Robbie also publicized openings on various city boards and commissions, encouraging people to apply. Every November, we embarked on our annual self-evaluation, in the December column listing accomplishments of the past year and priorities for the coming year. He missed only a couple months of publishing in over 16 years of public service, and was proud of that record.



In the later years, the column was supplemented by a wide email list which offered additional communication options.

Robbie did not like the word "legacy" but he was very keen on the word "accomplishments." When you think of Robbie's city council years, the highest praise would be to say that he was an effective council member who brought many improvements to the community.

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The Case for Adopting Senior Dogs



When considering adopting a dog into your family, many people often think that a cuddly, energetic puppy is the most appealing choice. Though puppies are fun and undeniably cute, the cuteness doesn't come without a lot of work. There is a definite case to be made for senior dogs.

These elder pups often get overlooked at the shelters. But they need good homes, too – even more so than the younger pups. Shelters usually have a larger senior pet population and by adopting one, you are truly saving and changing a life.

Some of these older dogs have been cast aside for unfortunate reasons by their families - maybe even simply because they just aren't as peppy as they used to be. Imagine the sense of betrayal a dog might feel! One would think that this would harden a dog's demeanor and they would never love again. On the contrary, most dogs are even more eager to love and are willing to open up their doggy hearts to another family.

The following are a few points to keep in mind when you are making the choice to add to your family:

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see DOGS page 19

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Photos by Lance Armstrong

Community activist Jay Brown speaks in favor of the preservation of the historic New Helvetia structures, on Aug. 24.

A group gathers at the southwest corner of Muir Way and Broadway on Aug. 24 in support of the preservation of the structures of the historic New Helvetia public housing project at that site. This event, which included speeches, occurred a day prior to the Sacramento City Council's vote on a revitalization plan in that area.

Revitalization

continued from page 8

He also shared his belief that the demolition of Alder Grove's structures would add to the number of the city's homeless.

Warren, who noted that he was successfully represented by Colley during his youth and is a friend of the Colley family, also said that it would be a "major slap in the face" to Colley to have Alder Grove demolished.

"It's a tremendous loss for the city of Sacramento, let alone black people," he said. "Again, it really, to me, demonstrates the lack of understanding, cultural sensitivity.

"The council will do what they're going to do, but this, to me, is another example of the insensitivity of our city as it relates to people of color. We see it in law enforcement, we see it in employment, in the city of Sacramento, and we see it in housing."

Responding to Warren, Mayor Darrell Steinberg mentioned that if he believed that the revitalization plan would lead to more homelessness, he would not support it.

Dozier added that it is both a HUD and City Council requirement that arrangements be made for relocating tenants for any major plan or renovation of public housing.

She also noted that on average, public housing tenants would be displaced for about 45 days.

Council Member Larry Carr shared his belief that many residents and others do not understand the details of the city's West Broadway plan.

Supporting Carr, Council Member Angelique Ashby presented her own thoughts.

"When you put something in the city's 20-, 30-year, 100 million-year plan, whatever, it's very broad and it has a lot of discretion, and that's concerning," she said. "It uses the word, demolish, and yet the current project plan, as described by Executive Director La Shelle Dozier, doesn't intend to demolish anything."

Initialized through Carr's motion, the council conducted a preliminary vote on whether to delay their vote by one month, so that additional public outreach could be conducted.

The result of that vote was 6-3, with the dissenting votes coming from Carr, Warren and Ashby.

Prior to voting against the 30-day extension, Council Member Rick Jennings spoke in favor of denying that motion, passing the revitalization plan that evening, and continuing to educate the community about that plan.

"For this particular plan – not project – we need to make sure that we go back out and effectively communicate to the residents and to the surrounding community, because for whatever reason, there's conflicting information that has been given," he said.

Jennings added that there is time to relay the city's message, given that Marina Vista's rehabilitation is not scheduled to begin until 2023.





Ending the civil war

By Robert C. Koehler

This looks like the beginning of a civil war.

The chaos and violence in Kenosha, Wisconsin are unfolding as I write. I feel as though I'm watching some natural disaster develop, suddenly overpowering any hope for social change "before it's too late."

Is it already too late — that is to say, too late to disarm our concept of social order and, for God's sake, safety? The American problem of guns is not only that there are so many of them, vastly more than there are people; and that they are deemed, by so many Americans, necessary for survival and empowerment, commanding a reverence in the collective imagination right there alongside the flag and the cross; but also, that they are inextricably linked, in so many ways, with American racism.

The American racial divide — at least one side of it — is armed. Indeed, the original Civil War, I fear, never ended. For the next century it was called Jim Crow and was simply part of the national norm. After the Civil Rights movement, however, it had to be waged in privacy, behind a veil of platitudes and lies. The privacy ended with the advent of the cellphone video, which began exposing the police killings of men and women of color for what they were: acts of government terrorism, a.k.a., war. These killings may have been "unofficial," but were never merely the result of bad apples disobeying orders and violating the values of their profession. They were upholding the values.

The raw obviousness of this is what makes the videos of police actions, fatal and otherwise, against people of color, so horrific to observe. Consider the most recent viral video: the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha on Aug. 23.

The police, responding to a call of a domestic dispute, apparently determined that Blake was the perpetrator and began struggling with him. There is significant witness testimony that Blake had intervened to break up the fight, but no matter. The officers had already determined who was at fault. Blake ignored their orders, walked away from them and opened his car door. Yes, all concerned were in the midst of a modestly complex misunderstanding. In a different world, this could have been handled simply and courteously. But in today's America, Blake — the enemy — had just committed a capital offense.

One of the officers simply began firing at him from behind. He showed no hesitation. On the video, seven shots rang out! This is beyond credulity, beyond anything that could be considered "law and order." But it was also situation normal: An African-American man was being shot in the back, over and over and over. And his three sons were in the backseat of the car. One of them had been celebrating his eighth birthday.

Miraculously, Blake was not the next George Floyd. He didn't die. He was taken to a hospital; he may never walk again, but he survived.

There was plenty of outrage over what happened, including from politicians. Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers declared: "he is not the first Black man or person to have been shot or injured or mercilessly killed at the hands of individuals in law enforcement in our state or our country . . ."

Joe Biden said: "These shots pierce the soul of our nation."

And then there was the Milwaukee Police Association, which declared:

Politicians need to remain calm until everything comes out. By rushing to judgement, without knowing all of the facts, this will only fuel the cause of others to protest in a manner that isn't peaceful. Reckless comments, without all of the facts, can only lead someone to a rush of judgement which will result in emotions taking over.

In other words, while it may well be OK to shoot someone in the back without "knowing the facts" (e.g., who is this person?), rushing to judgment afterward can cause harm. We're waging a civil war here, but let's keep it 50 percent peaceful, OK?

And then the protests began. The media coverage basically seems to regard the protests, whether nonviolent or violent, as a single entity. And thus nonviolent protesters' plea and cry for an end to police violence can instantly nosedive as a cause if other protesters (or infiltrators) manifest their outrage directly.

And most protesters accept that responsibility: staying peaceful and urging others to do the same. When looting and fires erupt anyway, they view it with regret and despair, e.g., Jacob Blake's mother told the media "the damage in Kenosha did not reflect what her family wanted and if her son could see it he would be unhappy."

The problem here is that the whole thing remains in us-vs.-them mode: Even peaceful protesters face armed police purporting to guard the city against them, sometimes firing teargas and rubber bullets, especially if the protesters cross a line of some sort. But the protest isn't just a show; the point is transcendent change, whatever that may take. The point is an end to the Civil War and build social order on a foundation of equality and mutual respect. This is a problem.

Too many people in this country want to continue the civil war: "Two people were shot dead and another injured when at least one gunman opened fire on protesters in Kenosha, Wisconsin, amid demonstrations against the police shooting of Jacob Blake three days ago."

So the Guardian reports, adding: "Journalists and others on the scene in Kenosha said that from the beginning of the protests on Tuesday armed men had been in evidence, amid claims that some had responded to calls on social media to turn out."

One man said: "Three thousand of us are armed and ready."

And the shooter, who managed to flee — he was arrested the next day in Illinois, but was not stopped by the police in Kenosha — apparently was caught on video "interacting with Kenosha County Sheriff's officers earlier in the night outside a gas station. In the video, officers can be heard telling an armed group outside the gas station 'we appreciate you guys,' and passing out water."

This is half a civil war. Some of the participants are police and some are vigilantes. They are armed and desperate for enemies.

To the extent the protests stay peaceful, they lose.

Robert Koehler (koehlercw@gmail.com), syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor. He is the author of Courage Grows Strong at the Wound.

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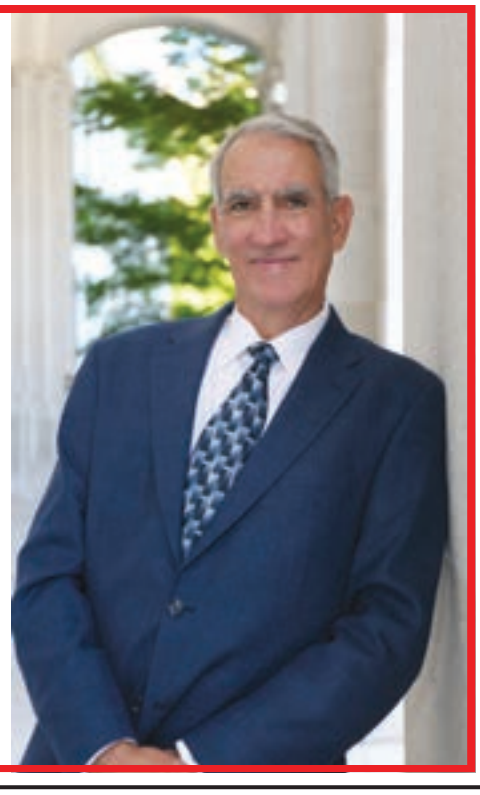

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Dogs:

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seven dog years equals one human year but dogs age differently based on their breed. The larger breed dogs tend to age more quickly than smaller breed dogs. Giant and large breeds are considered to be seniors when they reach around six or seven years-old while medium breeds are considered to be seniors closer to eight or nine years old. Smaller breeds are seniors when they reach about ten to 12 years of age.

2. With good nutrition, proper exercise and veterinary care, your senior pups will live a great life as your companion and family member. Keep in mind that although senior dogs have established personalities and most often are house and obedience trained, old dogs certainly can learn new tricks!

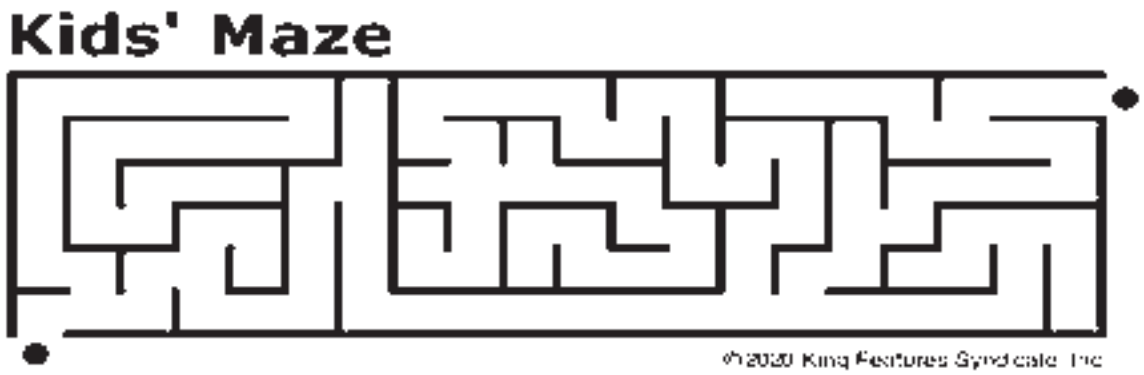
3. As previously mentioned, there is no doubt that puppies are cute. However, remember the time it takes to potty train them. If you are mature, yourself, and don't have the patience for crate-training and pee pads, an older dog is best for you. They have been in homes before and, for the most part, are crate trained and know that the potty is outside.

4. If you are looking to adopt a "furever" friend who understands what it's like to be a member of a family "pack" and will learn quickly what is expected of them in their new home, a senior dog may be the best choice for you. Many of these older dogs are not in shelters for behavioral problems. They lived with, and were loved by, a pet parent who passed away and these grieving pups by no fault of their own were placed in a shelter.

Contact your local shelter and/or rescue organization to see if they have a senior dog that will be best suited for your family's lifestyle. A senior dog offers a lifetime of unconditional love to share with you and your family.

For over fifteen years, Susan Marie has been spreading the word about puppy love through her national weekly radio show, The Doggy Diva Show. Susan is also the author of the award-winning Miss Olive children's book trilogy The Doggy Diva Diaries.

Kids' Maze



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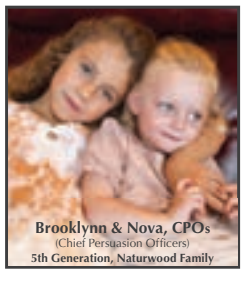

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