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Pocket News

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A Comfort Dog in Seymour Park

see page 3

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3 Beds | 3 Baths | 3,375 sq ft
6500 Benham Way $940,000

Exclusive River Oaks Ranch



In true Pocket fashion, this home is great for entertaining with a separate living room, family room, and formal dining room with a wet bar. The kitchen has dual ovens and opens up to the family room. The master bath has dual sinks with oversized shower with dual heads. The oversized 2 car garage with fit both vehicles plus storage.

4 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,322 sq ft
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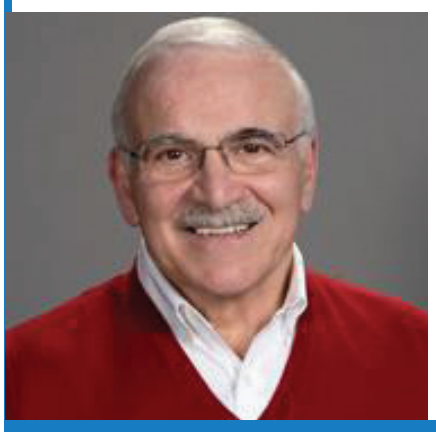

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One lane Pocket Road proposal blocked by community dissent

Open letter by Council Member Rick Jennings

I met with City staff working on our transportation plan. I discussed the options other than lane reductions with them and shared with them all the comments I have received on this proposal. At the end of the meeting, I directed city staff to remove all proposed lane reductions from the transportation plan and the City's General Plan update.

The overwhelming input that I have received was against any lane reductions in our community. As your representative on the City Council, it is my job to make sure that your voice is heard. Thank you again for voicing your opinion! I also wanted to give you just a short background on the genesis of the lane reduction proposal and why it was part of the transportation plan. The lane reduction proposal was first put forward by staff as part of the City's General Plan update. Typically, the General Plan is where these discussions and decisions take place.

What is different for our community is that we also had a community-wide transportation plan happening at the same time. To make sure that the community was informed, I asked the City staff working on the transportation plan to include a review of the proposed lane reductions. This way there would be multiple chances to comment, and comment you did!

The true focus of the transportation plan is to look at the entire Pocket/Greenhaven community and offer integrated solutions to slow down traffic, improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, and improve our quality of life. It was very clear to me that the proposal, while technically meeting the engineering requirements, more importantly, did not meet the needs of our community. I am hopeful with the removal of all lane reduction proposals that we can work cooperatively to implement a plan that focuses on reducing speed and improving pedestrian and bike safety for all.

I am hopeful that we will be able to meet in person for this important strategic gathering. Please continue to call or email with your questions, ideas and comments regarding this plan. I look forward to seeing you then!

Stay Safe.

Water saving can be beautiful when you garden like nature intended

By Debbie Arrington
For BeWaterSmart.info

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

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

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

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

see Water page 17

POCKET NEWS
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Cover photo by: Courtesy







A Comfort Dog in Seymour Park

By Marilyn Hunter

Anyone who has walked through Seymore Park, between Riverside and Florin, has seen many dogs with their owners walking and enjoying the park and walkway. Some of you may have known a dog who has/had the uncanny ability to find those who need them the most.

Comfort Dog Micah is one of those dogs. If you've noticed, we have a number of Golden Retrievers that walk through the park. Micah is a Golden that wears a bandana every day as he walks multiple times daily in the park.

Comfort Dog Micah is a 3-year-old Golden Retriever who is a certified Lutheran Church Charities' (LCC) K-9 Comfort Dog. LCC works through churches to help individuals and families. Headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois, LCC serves nationally and internationally and has over 130 Comfort Dogs in locations in 27 states with four Comfort Dogs in California. Those churches are in Elk Grove, with Comfort Dog Micah at Light of the Valley Lutheran; in Napa, with Comfort Dog Aaron at St. John's Lutheran; in Stockton with Comfort Dog Rahab at St. Andrews Lutheran; and Yuba City with Comfort Dog Reuben at First Lutheran.

"The LCC K-9 Ministries embrace the unique, calming nature and skills of AKC purebred golden retrievers to interact with people of all ages and circumstances," said Lee Hunter, a caregiver with LCC and handler for comfort dog Micah (and lives here in the Greenhaven area). "The comfort dogs serve every day in the communities in which they are placed. When invited, they are also deployed in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected. LCC never charges those they serve." Unlike a service dog who only has one handler, Micah has 10 handlers and another 8 team members who help with his ministry.

On a regular basis, Micah goes out to visit senior centers with memory care units, schools, preschools, 911 communication centers, police roll calls, fire stations, shut-ins, teen centers, libraries, those recovering from surgeries, food banks, Ronald McDonald House, Kiwanis House, and more. Recently, Micah has worked in the courtroom to comfort children when they have had to testify in court in molestation and sexual abuse cases. Micah when vested, is with two people, a handler who keeps him safe, and another to interact and talk with those Micah is visiting. Micah's vest is one that reads "Please pet me", as that is what he enjoys the most, to be hugged and petted.

Even with the pandemic, Micah remained fairly active, especially with Cal Fire during the fire season. Comfort Dogs Aaron, Micah and Reuben visited 9 difference fire camps during the raging fires between August – October 2020 to help and comfort the firefighters and support staff for the fire camps.

"It was an honor to be there as the firefighters were going out and those coming back in after being out for 24 hours," said Hunter. "There is a village of people that support the firefighters, such as the food service, laundry, security, facilities, training and accommodations, and we are happy to be a part of that support group and to support the other groups serving the firefighters. These brave heroes are hot, exhausted and missing their families and pets. Sometimes, even tears surfaced as they told us about their dogs at home and how they miss their families."

Micah would love for you to follow him (search for Comfort Dog Micah on Facebook and/or @lcck-9Micah on Instagram). The next time you see a Golden Retrieve in Seymore Park with a bandana, ask if it's Micah, because Micah would love to meet you!





Land Park was once home to the 'White House'

Watering hole, restaurant is a predecessor of Riverside Clubhouse

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photos by Lance Armstrong

The former site of Land Park's 'White House' has been occupied by the Riverside Clubhouse since 2003.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

see White page 8

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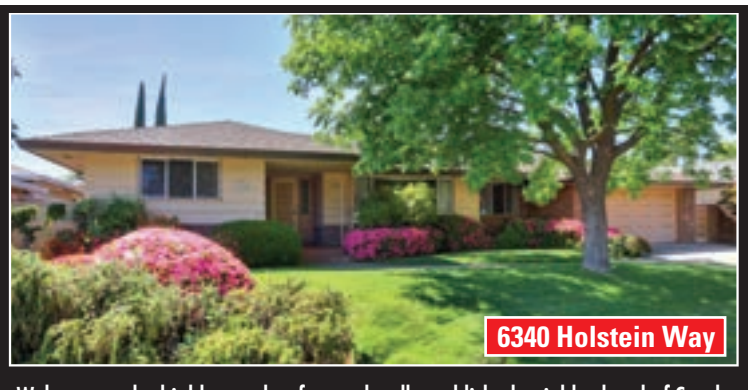
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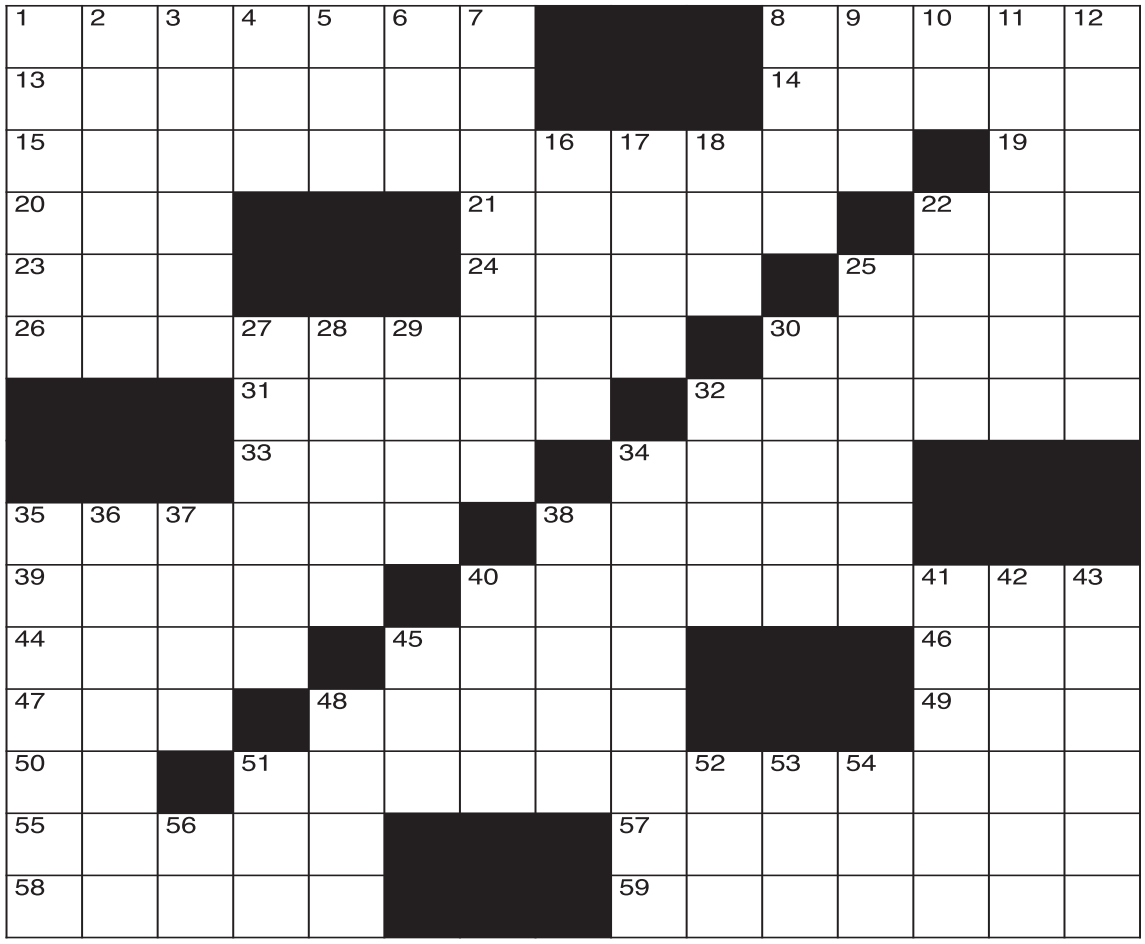

CLUES ACROSS

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

CLUES DOWN

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



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1. Bonnie Tyler released "It's A Heartache" in 1977. Name the other two female artists who released cover versions the following year.
2. Which Scottish band released "Love Hurts"?
3. Who wrote and released "Clap for the Wolfman"?
4. Which artist released "Material Girl"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "It was so easy livin' day by day, Out of touch with the rhythm and blues, But now I need a little give and take."

Answers

1. Juice Newton and Ronnie Spector.
2. Nazareth, in 1975. It was first released in 1960 by the Everly Brothers as an album track, never a single. The song has been covered by many, including Roy Orbison, Jennifer Warnes and Jim Capaldi from Traffic.
3. The Guess Who, in 1974. The song was about Wolfman Jack, the famous DJ. He's heard speaking on the recording.
4. Madonna, in 1984.
5. "New York State of Mind," by Billy Joel in 1976. The song was never released as a single but became a favorite anyway, one that Joel played at benefit concerts all around New York after 9/11. He wrote the song after moving to the East Coast from Los Angeles.

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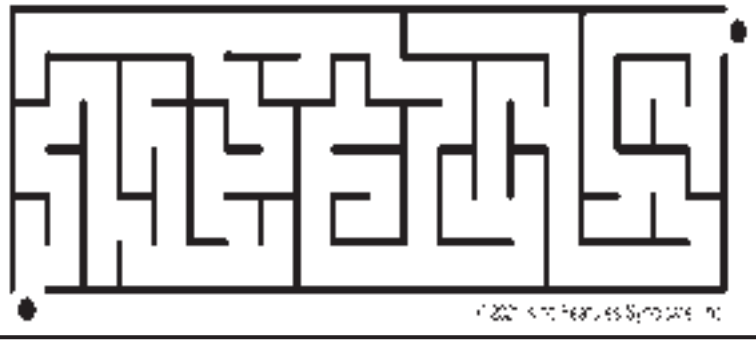
Kids' Maze



Del Rio Trail to be open to the public in 2023

By Monica Stark



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

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

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

The trail is currently fully funded and is anticipated to be constructed in a single phase. Since last spring, the City of Sacramento has taken the preliminary engineering concepts approved in the environmental document and began turning them into biddable project plans for a general contractor to construct. The City also worked on the necessary permits for the project that were identified in the environmental document. There is a public meeting planned for the project on May 24 at 6 p.m. to update the community on our progress. It will be a virtual meeting, and those who are interested can sign up at bit.ly/DelRioTrail.

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

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

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

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

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

Overall, the project has received broad community support which has enabled the project to secure funding. Randolph explained that the project was made possible by special grant funds from the state of California to promote active transportation. These funds paid for the environmental analysis and are paying for the design of the trail. Construction funds were subsequent-

see Trail page 7

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Trail:

continued from page 6

ly programmed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments as this project also fulfills the regional goal for better trail connectivity. Then, in 2019, the Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors agreed to pursue the project as a joint venture and agreed to transfer the ownership of the corridor to the City, this transaction was completed last year.

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

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

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

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

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



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White:

continued from page 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That article mentions the White House as one of the local saloons that would be eliminating their slot machines due to an order that was issued during the previous day for all slot machines to be removed throughout the county.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hereford House occupied the building from 1963 to 2001.



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

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

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

The Riverside Clubhouse made its debut in 2003.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Sacramento SPCA is hosting their annual Doggy Dash on Saturday, June 5, 2021 – and this year is sure to offer more than just another walk in the park

Now celebrating its 28th anniversary, the Sacramento SPCA's Doggy Dash has grown into Northern California's largest 2K/5K dog walk and pet festival – with a goal this year to raise $150,000 in registrations and donations to support the life-saving programs that help animals and the people who love them in the Sacramento region. Donations from last year's Doggy Dash helped the Sacramento SPCA provide direct care to more than 30,000 animals in 2020.

With restrictions still in place for large group events due to the pandemic, the Sacramento SPCA is hosting its largest community event and fundraiser of the year virtually for a second year in a row. "Just because we can't walk side by side, doesn't mean we can't still walk together to save lives," said Dawn Foster, Sacramento SPCA Marketing & Communications Director.



An estimated 5,000 animal lovers usually gather at William Land Park for this special event each year, with and without their canine companions – to raise funds for animals at the Sacramento SPCA and enjoy pet-friendly vendors, demonstrations, contests, food trucks, beer garden, local entertainment and more!

Pet enthusiasts living far and wide are encouraged to join the Sacramento SPCA on June 5, 2021 from their homes, neighborhoods, parks and trails for the 2k/5k walk and also connect online to share photos and enjoy the event's live broadcast and pet festival. "By participating in our own communities, people and dogs (and even cats!) who would not normally be able to participate at William Land Park, can now do so," added Foster.

The virtual event will be kicked off on the shelter's Facebook page at facebook.com/SacSPCA at 9 a.m. on June 5th; participants will hear from the Sacramento SPCA's CEO, Kenn Altine, meet a few special animals and guests and then take a special tour of the newly construction Zoe K. McCrea Animal

see SPCA page 11



SPCA:

continued from page 10

Health Center before starting the 2K/5K walk.

Doggy Dashers are encouraged to share photos and video of them and their dogs walking and participating in the event's activities throughout the day using the hashtag #SSPCADASH2021.

As the only full-service 100% nonprofit animal shelter in the Sacramento region, the Sacramento SPCA relies on donations from individuals, businesses and foundations to support their work. They are local, independent, and do not receive funding from state or local government agencies.

Supporting this year's Virtual Doggy Dash by walking, sharing or donating will help Sacramento SPCA continue to give more than shelter to the animals who need it most.

To register for the event or donate to help animals in need, visit sspca.org/dash.

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This event benefits local charitable organizations helping children/teens, including Kiwanis Family House - housing families with children undergoing treatment at UC Davis Medical Center; Just for Kids - helping children who have a family member with cancer; and high school Key Clubs - teaching teenagers the value of community service.

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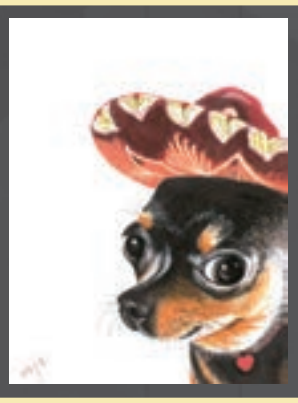



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Taking Sacramento to 100% Electrification – Is SMUD ready to do this?

By Jennifer Holden

District 4 Councilmember Katie Valenzuela is strongly in favor of cutting carbon emissions as soon as possible. It's a passion of hers, and that time is of the essence in saving our environment for future generations.

So why did she just vote NO to advancing the New Building Electrification Ordinance to a City Council vote in the last Sacramento Law and Legislature Committee meeting?

Here are the two reasons she gave during the Law and Legislature Committee meeting:

1) She's not against the ordinance itself, but she wants a 1-year postponement on the final vote. While she wants all fossil fuel use eliminated in homes and in transportation, and for all fossil-fuels to be replaced by electrical energy (frequently referred to as 100% electrification) from 'green' sources such as windmills and solar panels, she is concerned about the timing of this vote. The New Building Electrification Ordinance is being put to a final City Council vote on May 25th, 2021 to take effect in 2023, and the new California State building codes released by the State of California in 2022 – so why not wait for the new state building codes and then write the New Building Electrification Ordinance so it can comply with state codes? We don't know now if this New Building Electrification Ordinance will comply with next year's state building codes, so we should wait for the state building codes first.

2) CM Valenzuela also has concerns regarding the impact of this ordinance on the homes and business of racial minorities, and wants more time for conversations and planning to ensure that these populations will not experience financial hardship because of this ordinance.

(To watch the presentation and discussion of the New Building Electrification Ordinance to the Law and Legislature Committee on May 4, 2021, go to: sacramento.granicus.com/player/clip/4934?view_id=25&redirect=true , Agenda Item #4, which starts at the 00:27:25 mark, and CM Valenzuela's questions start at 01:17:05, with her statement of concerns starting around 01:25:25.)

Here are my ten reasons I am grateful to her for asking for a 1-year postponement of the New Building Electrification Ordinance:

1) This isn't just about 100% electrification of new construction. There are plans for an Existing Building Electrification Ordinance to be written soon. The City Council is planning to require all existing structures to become powered by 100% electricity by 2045. To learn more about the existing building electrification process, go to page 10 of http://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/CDD/Planning/Long Range/Climate-Action-Plan/8-13-20-PDC-Report.pdf?la=en

On April 4, 2021, a SMUD representative spoke to the Mangan Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) about SMUD's plan to implement 100% electrification for Sacramento – new and existing construction. The following information was relayed to Mangan Park residents attending that meeting:

2) SMUD is not yet SB 100 compliant; (that's the 2018 SB-100 California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: emissions of greenhouse gases. You can read the bill at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100

3) SMUD has not installed EMP-resistant infrastructure, which protects our electrical grid from hackers, thieves, and solar flares, as well as ensures efficient transference of electricity from the field (or other states);

4) SMUD estimates that given the current population of Sacramento (and that's Sacramento only and not the surrounding cities in the Greater Sacramento Metropolitan Area), and in order to meet the requirements of SB 100, that 7,000 acres of land will be needed to power Sacramento with windmills and solar panels;

5) SMUD does not currently own the needed 7,000 acres of land, nor have they decided on the most likely locations, so they do not have expected costs for purchasing the needed 7,000 acres. If any 100% electrification ordinances are passed before the land is purchased, the cost of that land is going to skyrocket, and the additional costs will be added to the future electricity bills of Sacramento residents;

6) SMUD has not yet calculated the increased electrical needs of Sacramento's population as Sacramento becomes denser and doubles in population over the next 10 years as anticipated by current RHNA projections, so SMUD doesn't yet know how much more land they are going to need beyond the current 7,000 acres to provide sufficient electricity to meet the needs of a rapidly growing Sacramento;

7) SMUD is currently expecting that they will be offering about $8,750 to homeowners to help them convert their existing houses to 100% electrical power, and there may be some more additional bonuses possible. The program is called the Home Performance Program, and the money might be given to the homeowner before work begins, or as a rebate after the work is done, and SMUD hopes to negotiate with some contractors to arrange to pay the $8,750 directly to those contractors. However, there is much about the Home Performance Program that is still being decided - we will have to wait for the program to solidify. For example, there currently is not a special assistance program

see SMUD page 17

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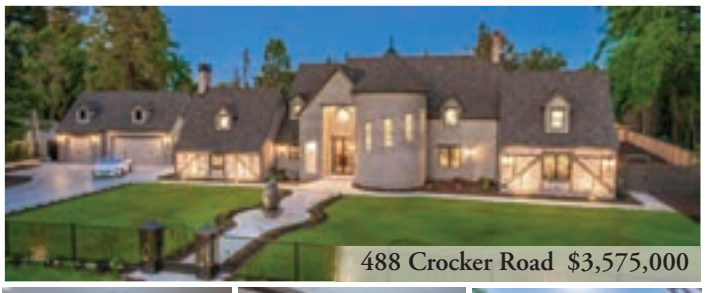
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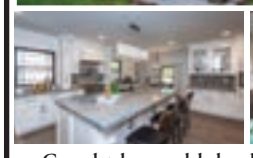
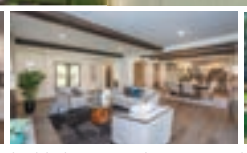
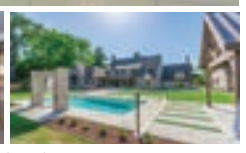

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5 beds, 4.5 baths, 5527 square feet per assessor

South Sac schools win $2.5 million grant to expand mental health services

The Sacramento City Unified School District announced that the district has won a $2.5 million grant to expand mental health services for students and community members by establishing a Student Support Centers at each school site in a network of five schools in the South Sacramento Community Schools (SSCS) consortium.

"To support our students' academic success, we also must address their social and emotional needs," said Sac City Unified Superintendent Jorge Aguilar. "Many students have experienced extraordinary stress and trauma during the pandemic, while also facing ongoing challenges associated with poverty. This grant will allow Sac City Unified to expand our well-established and much-needed district and school-based system for addressing students' needs through referrals for mental health screening, assessment, consultation, and treatment."

The schools in the SSCS consortium are Luther Burbank High School, John Still K-8, Rosa Parks K-8, Nicholas Elementary, and Parkway Elementary. These schools make up an elementary to middle to high school feeder pattern in a high-poverty area of Sacramento. Each school site serves as a community hub within its neighborhood and many resources are shared among all schools in the consortium.

Student Support Centers provide school-based mental health services and case management to link students and families to local resources for a myriad of basic needs and physical, mental, and behavioral health needs. Three of the five SSCS sites have the Student Support Center structure in place. The new funding from the grant will allow the district to provide staff support at all five sites and expand services and resources, especially much-needed mental health services, to additional students, staff and families. The expansion of Student Support Centers community-school model will create a supportive pathway that follows students from preschool through 12th grade in South Sacramento.

The grant required districts to provide support to communities most impacted by COVID-19. Using zip code data from the Sacramento County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard, all schools in the SSCS network were also identified as having the highest need based on the Student Services Equity Index, which uses school data with a weighted formula to identify the schools most in need of student support services. Factors used are school enrollment, number of students identified as socio-economically disadvantaged, chronic absenteeism rate, suspension rate, and at risk of students being commercially sexually exploited. Using the weighted formula with each of these factors, schools are ranked in most need to less need for support services.

The funds were awarded by the California Department of Education through a California Community Schools Partnership Program competitive grant process.

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Using public schools as hubs, community schools bring together many partners to offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities.

Sacramento City Unified's community partners include: Sacramento County Behavioral Health; Sacramento County Public Health; Sacramento County Office of Education; Sacramento County Child Protective Services; UC Davis SacEDAPT; Sacramento Children's Home; River Oak Center for Children; Dignity Health Children's Center; La Familia Counseling Center; Stanford Sierra Youth & Families; Center for Oral Health; Rose Family Foundation; Sacramento Covered; Improve Your Tomorrow; and the Parent Teacher Home Visit Program.

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SMUD:

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for those on fixed incomes, such as retirees or the handicapped. Older homes will require a new electrical panel as well as complete re-wiring, as well as purchasing new electrical appliances – a cost that can run into the tens of thousands. Lower- and fixed income Sacramento residents living in older homes may be forced to sell their homes because they won't be able to afford this upgrade. (And as a sample of the cost of new electrical appliances, a quick scan of prices for an electrical induction stove top at Lowe's runs between $1,500- $3,000.)

8) On Thursday, May 6, 2021, a different SMUD representative spoke to the Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) and confirmed that SMUD currently imports power from outside services, some of which generate electricity from fossil fuel sources.

9) I have yet to see a presentation by SMUD that shows a projected budget that goes with each phase of their plan to eliminate fossil-fuels by 2030. Overall costs to SMUD are mentioned in these presentations, but there's nothing itemized. For an undertaking this large, the residents of Sacramento deserve fiscal clarity and transparency in a well-prepared, itemized projected budget. Isn't this a standard part of presentations for other major infrastructure upgrades? And also to have the upgrade costs presented as the expected increased cost per resident... because any costs to SMUD are just going to be passed to their customers.

10) SMUD announced that they are planning for another rate-hike by the end of this year, and then won't raise rates for another 5 years. Great? Let's consider that 100% electrification is for decades, not just 5 years. We just had a significant rate hike. By the time the 7,000 acres of land for windmills and solar panels are purchased, the windmills and solar panels are purchased and installed, by the time that the rest of SMUD's infrastructure is upgraded to handle this increased load, (all probably accomplished during the next 5 years), we have no idea about the amount of the next rate increase at the end of the 5-year freeze – and it could be a doozy!

San Fransisco is also preparing to go 100% electric. The anticipated cost of San Fransisco becoming 100% electric is around $5.9 billion. (See http://www.capoliticalreview.com/capoliticalnewsandviews/eliminatingnatural-gas-in-housing-could-cost-5-9b-just-in-san-fran/) No one seems to know the anticipated total costs of taking Sacramento to 100% electrification, either.... will our costs be closer to billions than millions?

We can believe that we must go to 100% electricity NOW to save our environment. We can tell our city council that they must mandate the elimination of all fossil fuels NOW. That doesn't mean that our electrical providers are ready and able to provide Sacramento with clean, green, and locally-sourced electricity. That doesn't mean that our electrical providers and city council get to treat their customers and constituents as blank checks, or don't have to be transparent about the budgeting of their plans.

In last week's Law and Legislature Committee meeting, Councilmember Valenzuela showed herself to be a fiscally-sound, forward-planning councilmember, looking out for the best interests of her constituents. Regardless of the council district in which you live, please write to Councilmember Valenzuela at kvalenzuela@cityofsacramento.org to thank her for standing up for good governance and social justice by asking for a postponement of the final city council vote. And please write to all other councilmembers asking them to postpone the final vote of the New Building Ordinance currently scheduled for May 25, 2021, because the residents of Sacramento deserve more information from better-prepared electrical providers and council members before our City Council passes any ordinances about 100% electrification.

Water:

continued from page 2

to look their best. That adaptability is a huge asset.

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

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

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

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

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

Need ideas?

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

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

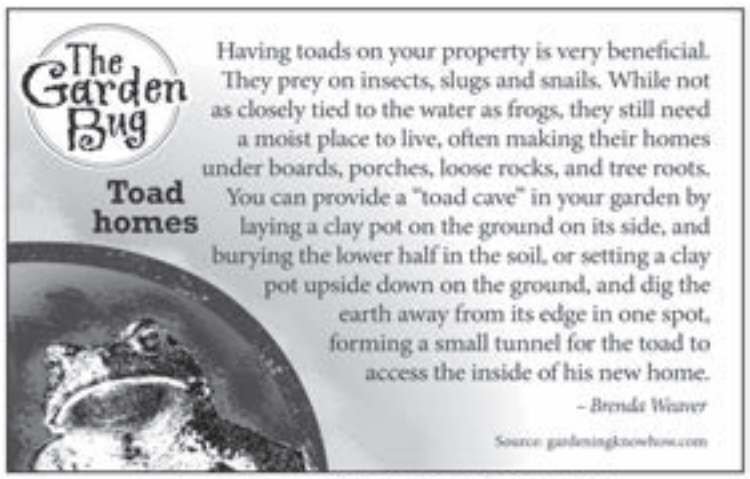
Golden currant (Ribes aureum): Can take Sacramento's summer heat with practically no summer water.

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

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

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





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Backyard homes have become a housing movement in the face of nimbyism



Carmichael residents, Sasha & Adam Ebrahim, inside the Backyard Home built for Sasha's mother

The term ADU is a sterile acronym developed by lawmakers; it is short for "accessory dwelling unit." ADUs are essentially "granny-flats" or "in-law-units," small homes constructed in the yard of an existing residence. They were effectively banned over the last several decades through a combination of zoning restrictions, municipal fees, and good old-fashioned nimbyism. In this instance, nimbyism came in the form of "not in your backyard".

To help address the housing crisis, the state enacted laws making it easier and less expensive to construct an ADU. These laws allow homeowners to build ADUs as a matter of right. If an ADU meets specific state criteria, neighbors and planning departments cannot prohibit their construction. This was a huge policy shift. Traditionally, cities and counties have controlled what homeowners can and cannot build on their property.

One family construction business foresaw the need and popularity of ADUs early on.

Port Telles and his cousin, Eric Martinus, started Backyard Homes shortly after the passage of the new state laws. Their company exclusively designs, permits, and constructs ADUs. Backyard Homes has been active in Land Park, Carmichael, Davis, Elk Grove and the Bay Area.

"I have always heard people raised in the 60's talk about movements. I never thought I would be part of one. There is a clear shift in the way people are living, 70% of the homes we build are for multi-generational households. The other 30% are homeowners looking to supplement monthly income by renting out their ADU," said Telles. "We are experiencing the ADU movement firsthand, especially in Sacramento, where families are seeking to keep aging loved ones at home and out of nursing homes," Telles continues.

"We love our ADU," said Sasha Ebrahim. Ebrahim and her husband, Adam hired Backyard Homes to build an ADU for Sasha's mother in their Carmichael backyard. "When we looked at our options, it was clear an ADU made the most sense," said Mr. Ebrahim. "The places my mother-in-law could afford were forty minutes or more away from our home, which defeated the purpose of having her move to Sacramento. As working parents, we are also grateful to have a family member help raise our two young kids."

The need for housing in California is not going away anytime soon. ADUs may not solve this crisis but are an important step toward increasing the number of new homes in California. Companies like Backyard Homes give homeowners a chance to make a difference in their own lives and be part of the solution.



FACES & PLACES

MAY-FLOWER SACRAMENTO BIKE PARTY RIDE







Photos by Stephen Crowley

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













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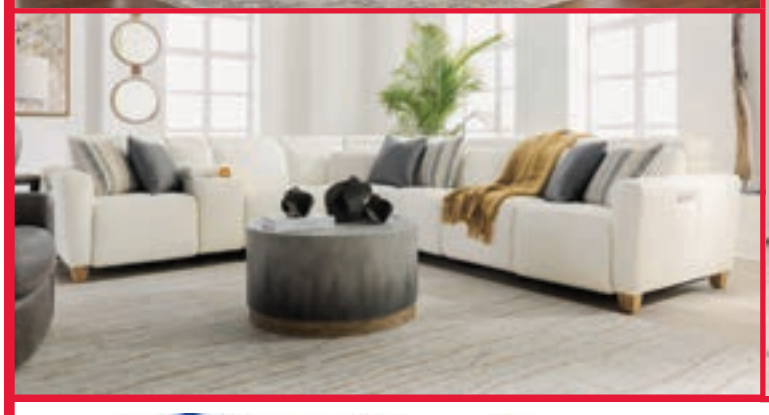

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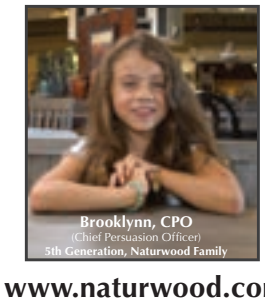

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