



River Park Review

Vol. 12 No. 1

www.Riverparksacramento.net

Mason, Damiano and Raulinaitis elected to RPNA board Harriman, Johns and Cirill re-elected

The River Park Neighborhood Association entered 2012 with three newly elected board members: Janet Mason, Todd Damiano, and Jerry Raulinaitis. The three were elected in a mail-in election that drew participation from 286 voter-residents. Three incumbent board members - Steve Harriman, Steve Johns, and Frank Cirill - were re-elected. Five current board members will remain in office, serving the second year of their two-year terms. At its January 19th meeting, the board elected Phil Pluckebaum to be RPNA's president in 2012. Shane Parkins was elected vice president, Barbara Debert treasurer, and Steve Johns secretary.



2012 RPNA Board of Directors

The three new board members are persons of great talent and ability. Janet Mason is a long-time resident of River Park who owns and operates her own successful design firm and has done an outstanding job during the past year as advertising manager for the River Park Review. Todd Damiano is a relatively new resident of River Park and has already been active as a volunteer at Caleb Greenwood school, the night patrol and the Glenn Hall Park Volunteer Corps. Jerry Raulinaitis is a 33-year resident of River Park and has a long involvement with youth baseball in River Park as a coach, manager, umpire and league president. He is also a home wine maker.

The new board fully expects to maintain tradition with the popular Fourth of July festivities and the other meetings and events throughout the year. 2012 is an election year, and the association hopes to hold several candidate forums.

The RPNA faces another difficult year, caused primarily by the reduction of municipal services due to the city's ongoing budget crunch. City maintenance of Glenn Hall Park has declined and it is virtually certain that the Glenn Hall Park

swimming pool will not be open at all to the general public this summer.

The RPNA board is still struggling to finalize the change of the association's tax status from 501c4 non-profit to 501c3 non-profit. The question of how to distribute the River Park Review to neighborhood doorsteps is now before the board as a result of the retirement of Silvio Suine, the stalwart longtime volunteer distributor. The board is also looking at ways to reorganize and rejuvenate the entire block captain system.

UPCOMING RIVER PARK EVENTS

February 2012..... and beyond

Thursday Feb. 9

River Park Garden Club
The Right Tree in the Right Place
Potluck 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian Church
Ferguson Hall
RSVP 455-6384

Thursday Feb. 16 RPNA Meetings

Block captains 6:30 p.m.
RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian
Church
Geneva Room

Saturday March 3

Glenn Hall Volunteer Corps
9:00 a.m. - noon
This Means You!
Help keep the park tidy and green. Hot food and drinks for volunteers. Bring gloves

Thursday March 15 RPNA Meetings

Block captains 6:30 p.m.
RPNA Board 7:30 p.m.
Fremont Presbyterian
Church
Geneva Room

River Park legend Stan Gilliam

A River Park pioneer, Stan Gilliam, died December 18, 2011 at age 87. Gilliam lived on Minerva Way for over 50 years, beginning in 1953. During that period he became well known as a columnist in the Sacramento Bee. Prior to his career in journalism he taught school at Grant Union and Sacramento high schools.



Here in River Park, Stan was known as a terrific family man with his wife Joan and three children. He was known for his humor, wit and helpfulness. Stan organized a dance club that met monthly for many years at the Dante Club and Plumbers Hall. His published restaurant reviews were almost always favorable and his columns about goings-on in Sacramento were always upbeat. Many people in River Park still remember Stan's graciousness and goodwill. He will be missed.

Glenn Hall Park Volunteer Corps to meet March 3 - work, fun, food

Neighborhood volunteers are invited to take part in the now regular maintenance of our beloved park. Volunteers will be pruning and cleaning, as well as planting flowers in the new beds near the park entrance. Bring gloves and an appetite. Tools and food will be provided. This activity is taking place because of the cutbacks in the city park's maintenance budget but it's actually turning out to be lots of fun.

The March 3rd meeting will be catered by Ron and Matt Herman, of Code 3 catering. Ron and Matt (father and son) are great neighbors who have contributed a lot to River Park. Matt has been our Glenn Hall Park city parks maintenance man for quite a while. So our reward for the next workday will be a hot meal! Menu will be soup, salad and bread. Coffee and other libations as well. Join the fun!

**Glenn Hall Park
Saturday
March 3rd
9:00 until Noon**



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Holiday Lights Winners

It was a bright and dry holiday season in River Park with many beautiful, creative and funny light displays. The annual holiday lights contest again drew many entries. RPNA's veteran light judges had a difficult time making a choice, but at last the winners were declared.

1st place: Jim and Kristin Stuart 5341 Sandburg Dr.



2nd place: The Sterpe-Mackey family 5121 Sandburg Dr.



3rd place: Ron Hermann family 3842 Breuner Avenue
 4th place: The Bianucci family 3783 Moddison Avenue

Honorable mention

Alicia Beveridge and Nick Cline 3774 Erlewine Circle
 Karen Halbo 5716 Callister Avenue
 Victor Rios and Elaine Borelli 5833 Callister Avenue
 The Spence family 5315 Shepard Avenue

And to all a good night!

Paperless real estate transaction firm opens in River Park

Buying or selling a house traditionally involves at least four copies of a thick set of eighty documents which must be mailed or delivered, then held together and finally filed. But the digital age has arrived in real estate. Since November, SkySlope, a web-based real estate transaction management system, has been open for business in the River Park shopping center. Owner Tyler Smith says the system is for real estate agents and will allow even the most technically averse broker to do more in less time by totally eliminating paperwork from the property transaction process.

A native of Elk Grove, Tyler Smith got his real estate license at age twenty. In 2010 he sold 170 houses and was named by Realtor magazine as one of the top 30 agents under age 30 in the U.S.

Tyler Smith lives in River Park and wanted an office close to home. SkySlope's headquarters are in Gold River with an East Coast office in North Carolina. It's a national firm, only two years old, but already with 25,000 paid subscribing agents.

Tyler is now 28, single and says he wouldn't mind meeting a woman who could be the love of his life.



Tyler Smith

Smith is also looking to hire energetic sales representatives for his rapidly growing company. Interested parties should send a resume to cooljobs@skyslope.com. The company's website is www.SkySlope.com and phone number is 1-800-507-4117.

Of course the housing market is still in the ditch, but making the complications of buying and selling a house simpler through custom digital software will give agents more time to prospect while also dramatically reducing the cost and time associated with signatures, copy machines, file boxes, labels and storage. SkySlope and Tyler Smith are welcome additions to River Park.



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Dogs of River Park

Angel is a nine year old German Shorthair Pointer. She loves little children and her best friends are the preschool group on Ada Way. She will let toddlers poke her and sits very still while they pet her. One even tried to rub her spot off. Angel loves hiking with her parents, Ken and Judy Kerri, and Angel hates squirrels.



Take a chance! Send a quality close-up digital photo of your River Park dog to:
editor@riverparksacramento.net

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River Park crops go to food bank

There are two citrus harvests in River Park scheduled through Harvest Sacramento in February, and many others throughout the city. The February 4th and February 18th events include River Park. Persons who would like to volunteer on those days should go to the website below and sign up for those events. It says East Sacramento but this also includes trees in River Park.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/org/470215629?s=6429582>

The recent picking that was scheduled independent of Harvest Sacramento went very well. Over the weeks before Christmas, on three picking occasions, 1100 lbs. of persimmons were picked from trees right here in River Park. One day included about 8 people (some were from outside of River Park) and the two other picking days were just local organizer Donald Bybee and one other person. The rule of thumb became "one tree, two people, two hours or less = 200 lbs. of persimmons." All of this fruit went to the Sacramento Food Bank and was then distributed within a couple of days in their food baskets to hungry families.

Donald Bybee says that as for additional River Park picking days, there may be some difficulty. All of the harvesting equipment was on loan from Harvest Sacramento which is getting so much response from volunteers that they needed all of their equipment back. Bybee says that if he could get the loan of at least one orchard ladder (three legs), a few picking poles, a few 5 gallon buckets, and some boxes, he could schedule some additional days in River Park. Contact him at:

452-8014 dbybe@me.com



Saga of the River Park block captains

by Jeff Harris

The basic premise was to create a system whereby neighbors would get to know each other and be able to watch out for one another. Block captains are simply volunteers who act as a contact hub - exchanging phone numbers, helping neighbors with special needs and watching a home when someone is away. Bobby Silva and Mark and Roberta Gregson developed the system in 1993. As the River Park Review developed, the network of block captains became a perfect hand delivery system. Long-time River Park resident Silvio Suine created the delivery model, and has run the program for 11 years. If RPNA had mailed the Review to each household during the past 11 years the cost would have been almost ninety thousand dollars in first class postage. Of course, the block captains needed some organization, and so the position of Block Captain Coordinator was created. This volunteer set up monthly meetings for the block captains to gather and swap stories about problems in their area. Billy Martinez has been the coordinator for the last six years, and has been a great leader. Block captains have worked with the police to move drug dealers out of the neighborhood and have helped neighbors settle minor disputes (like dog issues).

This system was set up before the internet was fully functional, when most neighbors were not online. Instead there were phone trees, and neighbors spent more time talking to one another.

River Park currently has 67 active block captains but it needs 97. The system has generally deteriorated over the years. Most block captains simply deliver the Review and do no more. So is the system still relevant? Have email addresses and cell phones obviated the need for neighborly connection? Should we let it go?

To answer these questions, let's look at the benefits of keeping it going. River Park has some of the lowest crime statistics of any neighborhood in Sacramento, and this has been consistent since the creation of our Block Captain (Neighborhood Watch) and Night Patrol programs. The River Park Review disseminates important information about local issues and events, crime in the neighborhood, and items of general interest. It is delivered *free of charge* to every River Park resident. This is very unique in the city. Because of our volunteer delivery system, the dues for RPNA members are very low. Most other neighborhood association dues are far higher than our \$10.00/year. Consider becoming a block captain. It is not a big commitment of time, and keeps the neighborhood continuity going. It makes River Park a great place to live and raise a family.

We currently need a Block Captain coordinator, as well as a RP Review delivery coordinator. These two jobs require a bit more time, about twenty hours per year, but they are essential to keeping the systems running.

Get involved! If interested, contact me with any questions -

Jeff Harris

cadence@surewest.net

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Join River Park computer networks now!

The best way to stay informed and up to date about what's happening in River Park is by using one or both of the two neighborhood computer listservs. Lost a dog? See something suspicious? Got something to sell? These interactive computer listservs are already used by hundreds of River Park residents. To sign up for the **River Park Blog Yahoo Group** just email to the moderator at:

riverparkblog-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/riverparkblog/>
and click on "Join this group!"

River Park's other electronic meeting place is the **River Park List (RP List)**. To become a member of RP List, visit www.riverparklist.com and follow instructions you'll find there. Both listserves are free.

The RPNA board has determined that instructions on how to join the two River Park computer networks be printed in each issue of the River Park Review.

River Park resident Larry Bogovich explains the River Park List (RP List)

Quite simply, I started the River Park List (in 2005).

The only requirement to sign up for the RPList is a name and River Park street address or street and cross street (residential or business). As I have mentioned to several people, I do not share this information; the list of subscribers will never be published. Rather, it is just a lame attempt on my part to limit membership to actual residents of or business owners in River Park. Of course, the RPList has been opened up to certain non-residents (our councilman and other city representatives) as a benefit to the RPList subscribers and to the neighborhood. I think we all appreciate their participation.

The RPList does have some minimal costs associated with it, namely website (and listserv) hosting and domain registration fees. But to me it is worth it to keep the advertisers at bay.

Many have expressed appreciation for the RPList. Sure, it would be ideal if River Park had just one listserv as those who are members of both no doubt receive redundant information, and those who subscribe to just one are probably missing out on something. If all "shortcomings" of the Yahoo Group (my perception) could be resolved I would most likely dump the RPList and join it.

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Police crime reports: November - December 2011

<https://www.crimereports.com/>

November 2	10:00 p.m.	5700 block Monalee Avenue	Theft of vehicle
November 7	10:00 a.m.	001 block Sandburg Drive	Burglary - Residence no force
November 18	Midnight	5000 block Moddison Avenue	Burglary - Residence no force
December 8	7:45 a.m.	5700 block Caleb Avenue	Theft of vehicle
December 8	10:00 p.m.	3800 block Breuner Avenue	Burglary - Residence by force
December 12	7:00 p.m.	Glenn Hall parking lot	Burglary vehicle
December 14	10:30 p.m.	3700 block Erlewine Circle	Breaking and entering
December 15	5:00 a.m.	4100 block Clyde Court	Theft of vehicle
December 15	10:03 a.m.	Moddison and Breuner	False personation
December 15	10:30 a.m.	Glenn Hall parking lot	Theft of vehicle
December 17	2:30 p.m.	5300 block Spilman Avenue	Petty theft

Sixty years ago

Here are two ads from the Sacramento Bee, c.1952. River Park is an "old" neighborhood now, but with lots of people of all ages living here. Let's keep our beautiful neighborhood tidy. Pick up any papers, wrappers or other trash and hold on to it until you can dispose of it properly. Don't let someone else ruin the beauty of River Park

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February for \$10 off your check of \$35 or more
1 per table. 1 per household. Eat in only. \$35 Not including tax and tip.
Cannot be used with any other discount. Not valid on Feb 14th.*

We want to give during the month of love



Celia Hall on Caleb was the first to notice one of the several errors in the last River Park Review. Actually she quickly reported three errors, two of which had to do with apos-

trophes. As a result of her fast perception and bold action, Celia received an IOU for the five dollars that would normally go to the winner of this jejune contest.

But good news! Cash is now available in sufficient quantity to pay off Celia and fully fund the next payout, if there is one. If you see something that is clearly wrong in this issue, do what is prescribed at the bottom of page 10 and you may be the next winner. Good luck!

Places to go (on the web) and people to call

Call the city anytime about anything **3-1-1**

Sacramento Police emergency **9-1-1** or **264-5151**

Sacramento Police non-emergency **264-5471**

Power's out? Call SMUD **888-456-7683**

Fire! Call **9-1-1** or **264-5031**

Mayor Kevin Johnson **808-5300**

City Councilman Steve Cohn

SCohn@cityofsacramento.org or call **808-7003**

County Supervisor Phil Serna

SupervisorSerna@saccounty.net or call **874-5485**

City Animal Control **808-7387**

What's the weather? www.wrh.noaa.gov/Sacramento

City of Sacramento Neighborhood Services Department:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org:80/ns/>



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Current River Park Listings

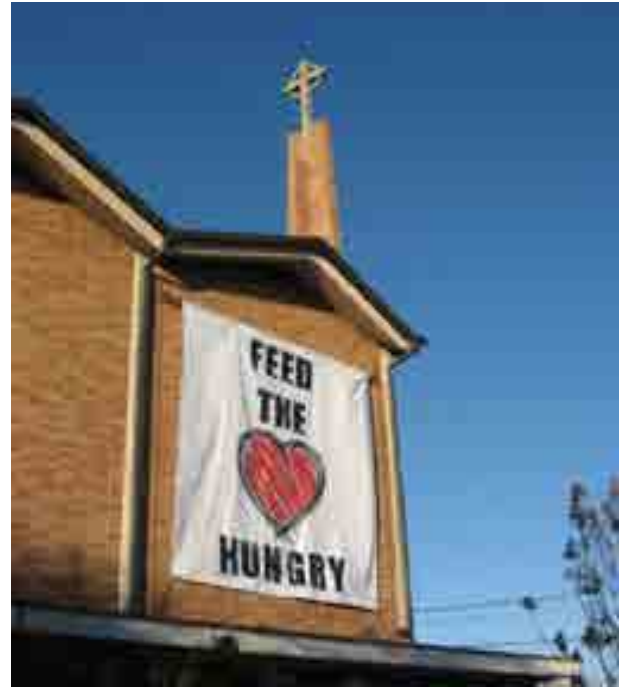
5327 SHEPARD AVE - Beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom / 2 bath home, just blocks from the American River. Stunning hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen w/ granite counters, new cabinets, and stainless steel appliances. Large living room w/ fireplace. Offered for \$412,000

309 SANDBURG DR. - Unique Custom Home in River Park. Main home has 2 bedrooms w/ 1.5 bathrooms, formal living room, large open kitchen, 2 fireplaces, inside laundry, hardwood floors and custom tile. Full studio apartment above 2 car garage. Offered for \$335,000

If you have been thinking about buying or selling in River Park, please call us. We would love to help. We also handle Short Sales and Investors.

In Brief:

- RPNA began 2011 with 619 members and ended 2011 with 732 members. Since the December-January issue, we have welcomed the following new members:
 - **Tim Griffiths & Jennifer Troia**
 - **Dustin Levett & Amber Murry**
 - **Brian Nowicki**
- Thanks to everyone who helped and supported the Used Book Sale at Caleb Greenwood library on December 10. Over 550 books were sold and \$621 collected to purchase books for the school library. New books for the library have been ordered.
- The River Park Mothers' Club will be doing the "First Fridays" Picnic in the Park again this year, which is open to all community members. It will be held each first Friday of the month, beginning May 4th at 5:30 in the afternoon in the kids playground area of Glenn Hall Park. Just drop by, picnic with neighbors and let the kids play.
- <http://neighbors.whitepages.com> Find out who your neighbors are.
- The loud train horns going past River Park continue to be a problem. Tell Union Pacific's local public affairs director Liisa Stark what you hear and feel by calling her at **789-5957** or email LLStark@up.com.
- The annual Youth Baseball League parade through River Park is scheduled for Saturday morning March 10 at 8:30 a.m. All the kids zigzag through the neighborhood on decorated vehicles and throw candy to adults and children cheering from the sidewalks. The parade ends at Ciavarella Field (at the end of Moddison Drive) followed by Opening Day festivities.
- The River Park Garden Club meets on Thursday April 12th at Fremont Presbyterian Church's Ferguson Hall. Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. (RSVP **455-6384**). Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Allison Harris will discuss edible gardens.
- Fremont Presbyterian Church's Local Mission Committee is proposing to do a six-month pilot program, teaming with the Central Downtown Food Basket. The church hopes to help the unemployed and underemployed (there may be some in River Park itself) by distributing a bag (or two) of groceries (non-prepared food) once per month at the church.



2012 RPNA Contacts/Membership information

RPNA membership is on a calendar year. If you would like to check or renew your membership, call Tamis Reed at **804-5168** or e-mail membership@riverparksacramento.net. If you would like to become a member, send \$10 (per household) to RPNA, P.O. Box 19866, Sacramento, CA 95819. Make check payable to RPNA.

Phil Pluckebaum	RPNA President	956-8453	president@riverparksacramento.net
Vacant	Block Captain Coordinator		
Tamis Reed	RPNA Membership	804-5168	membership@riverparksacramento.net
Jeff Harris	Night Patrol Coordinator	455-0996	cadence@surewest.net
Mike Montgomery	Newsletter Editor	457-2933	editor@riverparksacramento.net
Janet Mason	Newsletter Advertising Manager	736-1132	ibd@surewest.net

To submit an article to the River Park Review, please email information to editor@riverparksacramento.net. The River Park Review is published by the RPNA, which is responsible for its content. It reserves the right to edit and/or reject submissions. Editor will pay five dollars to the first person who finds a typo. **ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE: Biz Card: \$50; Biz Card-Plus: \$75; Half-page \$150; Insert: \$205.**